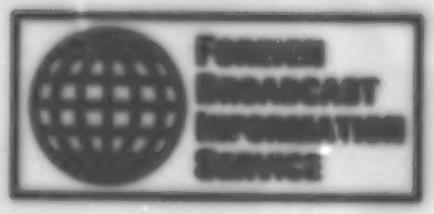

Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Arab-Israeli Talks

Israel Rejects U.S. Proposal To Present Document

TA1312102492 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 13 Dec 92 p 1

[Report by Dvora Peri in Washington and Hemi Shalev]

[Excerpts] Israel this week flatly rejected a U.S. proposal to present a paper that would try to bridge the gaps in the negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians, political sources in Jerusalem said last night.

The proposal was raised by Assistant Secretary of State Edward Djerejian in a meeting with Cabinet Secretary Elyakim Rubinstein, head of the delegation to the talks with the Palestinians. The U.S. desire to be involved actively in the negotiations by presenting its own paper constitutes a sharp turnabout in policy, which has so far tried to avoid open involvement in the significant aspects of the negotiations.

Authoritative sources in Jerusalem, explaining Israel's unequivocal rejection of the suggestion, said that "at this stage" a U.S. document would constitute "a clear-cut violation" of the rules of the negotiations as observed since the Madrid conference and would erode the principle of direct negotiations between the sides. The paper would also constitute a dangerous precedent for the other forums in which bilateral negotiations are being conducted.

The U.S. move, which came as a surprise to Israel, in fact reflects American dissatisfaction with Israel's proposals for an interim settlement in the territories. It apparently also constitutes an attempt by the outgoing administration to speed up the negotiations prior to President-elect Clinton's takeover, the sources said.

As far as is known, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin did not conduct a debate in any government forum before deciding to reject the U.S. proposal, and political sources in Jerusalem said last night that the decision might be attacked by dovish circles in the government.

The heads of the Israeli delegation reported on the Palestinian response to the new Israeli proposal for an agenda in an optimistic tone, as reflected in Thursday's Washington talks following Wednesday's one-day suspension in the negotiations. The Palestinians responded *matter of* factly to the various clauses in the Israeli proposal, and in some instances raised counterproposals, which, according to the sources, "were not rejected outright." [passage omitted]

According to the Israelis, the Palestinians understood that Israel accepts the linkage between the first stage of the interim arrangement and the permanent settlement. The two sides also agreed that the entire process is based on UN Resolution 242.

When the Palestinians called for clarifications on the linkage, according to the Israeli excerpt, they got the impression that Israel recognizes not only the time linkage between the interim arrangement and the permanent settlement but also that the interim arrangement will not determine a priori the outcome of the permanent settlement.

It can be understood from the remarks by the Palestinians that they are prepared to accept the new Israeli wording as a response to their demand that Resolution 242 is also relevant to the interim stage. They raised that demand in the sixth round of talks and were rejected outright by Israel and the United States. Later they announced that they would be prepared to make do with Israel's recognition that 242 refers to the entire process—as defined by the guidelines for the Madrid conference—and the linkage between the two stages.

Palestinian sources also said for the first time that "the elected (Palestinian) body"—a preferred term because it is neutral and not "loaded," unlike "a legislative council"—which would run the self-government, would have a territorial component.

Israeli sources responded by saying that while the new Israeli proposal "includes prior summations" with the Palestinians, they stressed that it does not constitute any significant change in the Israeli positions on principle. "If there has been a change, it has been on the Palestinian side," they said.

Israel Seeks Smaller Forum for Talks With Syria

TA1112115092 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 11 Dec 92 pp 1, 2

[Report by Hemi Shalev, Dvora Peri, and Gid'on Koutz]

[Excerpt] Israel hopes to transfer the deliberations on the wording of a joint declaration of principles with Syria to a smaller forum on the assumption that, by doing so, it will be possible to bridge the differences preventing an agreement on the details.

Professor Itamar Rabinovich, head of the Israeli delegation to the talks with Syria, raised the proposal in the bilateral talks under way in Washington. Rabinovich proposed that the plenum of the two delegations delegate the work of completing the wording of the declaration of principles to a narrow group, which will most likely be made up of delegation heads and perhaps also one or two additional representatives from each side.

The Rabinovich proposal is a result of Israel's feeling that the deliberations in the full plenum are holding up the negotiations because the framework is too rigid and the various speakers pay too much attention to the presence of their colleagues. It is believed that in less formal deliberations in a restricted forum, it will be possible to bridge the remaining gaps preventing an agreement on a declaration of principles and that, if the format works, it will also constitute a suitable framework for the rest of the negotiations. [passage omitted]

Hope of Israeli-Syrian Document Expressed

TA1112184592 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 11 Dec 92

[Text] Sources in the Israeli delegation to the bilateral peace talks have expressed the hope that a joint Israeli-Syrian document will be reached by the end of the current round, next Thursday. Those sources told our political affairs correspondent Shlomo Gonor that agreement has been reached on drafting the major part of this document and that efforts are focused on resolving the issue of withdrawal and the nature of peaceful relations.

The sources explained that the Palestinian side has begun to seriously discuss the new Israeli proposals presented yesterday dealing with the issues of land, water, and the judicial apparatus. The sources noted that Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian side, expressed his delegation's desire to reach an agreed on agenda for the negotiations.

As for the Jordanian track, the Israeli sources expressed their satisfaction on the progress of the talks within framework of the five technical working groups, including the one that is studying a plan to build a canal between the Dead Sea and the Red Sea to the benefit of the two countries.

'Ashrawi Reviews 8th Round of Washington Talks

JN1112122192 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1030 GMT 11 Dec 92

[Telephone interview with Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokesperson for the Palestinian delegation to the Arab-Israeli peace talks in Washington, by 'Umar Zaydani in Jerusalem, carried within "With the Events" program; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Zaydani] Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, how do you assess the first week of the eighth round of bilateral talks between the Palestinians and Israel?

['Ashrawi] In fact, it was a hard week. It began with issues related to reducing the size of the Palestinian delegation in protest against intransigent Israeli policies and the absence of effective intervention by the U.S. sponsor. There has also been an accusative and negative stand adopted by the Israeli delegation, which has refused to hold unofficial talks. However, they offered a response to the proposed draft agenda presented during the sixth round of talks. They have also provided an insufficient response to the question of human rights. This prompted the Palestinian side to today present a detailed and comprehensive comment on human rights issues, particularly on the need to implement the Fourth Geneva Convention and to comply with international laws and norms. We have also presented a detailed report on the question of resuming families and referred to the 12 issues we raised previously.

[Zaydani] This morning we read that during last night's session the Israeli delegation presented new proposals on land and judicial affairs?

['Ashrawi] There have been no new proposals. Rather, they have offered a slightly amended copy of the agenda. We replied to the agenda by discussing it in detail, commenting on it, and making several proposals. As for the question of territories, control, and other substantive issues, so far there has been no change in the Israeli policy. We hope there will be a change. We have informed them that if the Israeli side presents proposals or plans that reflect a commitment to the requirements, principles, bases, and objectives of this process, especially UN Security Council Resolution 242 and the land-for-peace principle, then we will be ready to deal positively with such proposals.

[Zaydani] Do you believe the smaller Palestinian delegation is capable of running the negotiations, especially in light of the fact that there are subcommittees that are now inactive?

['Ashrawi] The delegation is certainly capable of running the negotiations, especially if they continue without achieving any progress or without any substantive discussions. What decides the effectiveness of the delegation is not the number of its members, but the kind of proposals, issues, and ideas that are raised during negotiations. The presence of fewer members does not necessarily mean that substantial issues and plans in line with the perspective and bases of this process will not be raised.

[Zaydani] Do you believe that any progress will be achieved in this round?

['Ashrawi] No single party, of course, can achieve progress alone. There should be a political intention and a political commitment by both sides to attempt to achieve progress. This could be accomplished by presenting plans and proposals in line with the objectives and principles of this negotiating process. In particular, these would be related to geographic authority, territory, overall authority, and powers, especially constitutional powers. They are also related to human rights. If we can arrive at a responsible, positive Israeli stand, I believe nothing can prevent progress from being achieved.

[Zaydani] Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, thank you very much.

['Ashrawi] Not at all. You are welcome.

Reiterates Palestinian Goals

JN1212100492 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0825 GMT 12 Dec 92

[Text] Damascus, 12 Dec (SANA)—Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokesperson for the Palestinian delegation to the Arab-Israeli peace talks, has stressed, in an interview with TISHRIN published today, that Israel will not be able to penetrate any Arab delegation because they are all committed to pan-Arab constants calling for a just and comprehensive solution.

Regarding Palestinian participation in the talks, Dr. 'Ashrawi said we cannot absent ourselves from any meeting that seeks discussion on the decisive and basic issues of our lives, and we want to find a place for ourselves in this world which, so far, has not paid enough attention to the Palestine question.

On what the Palestinians want, Dr. 'Ashrawi said that the Palestinians want independence in a sovereign state that guarantees the right to self-determination in addition to freedom, even if this takes place in stages.

She explained that we want to eliminate the occupation, implement UN Resolution 242, and secure Israeli withdrawal within the framework of a comprehensive solution throughout the region.

Regarding Israeli allegations that the Palestinians are divided, Dr. 'Ashrawi said this is a famous Israeli propaganda trick that is a kind of fabrication because everybody works for the realization of the same objectives.

As for the level the of coordination between the Arab delegations on various fronts, the spokesperson for the Palestinian negotiators said that our objective is a pan-Arab comprehensive position that has an all-out Arab outlook to be attained through a comprehensive Arab strategy. Israel was not able to penetrate any Arab delegation, and there was no intention by any Arab party to try to conclude secret deals or hold secret bilateral talks with Israel.

Commenting on the famous phrase "peace of the brave," mentioned by President Hafiz al-Asad, Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi said: I wholeheartedly agree with this phrase, and I believe that the courage needed for realizing peace is more than that needed to launch war, because peace is a daily battle that requires addressing and convincing the people's minds.

On the subject of Syria's position on the Palestine question, Dr. 'Ashrawi said that Syria fully understands the region and knows how to deal with developments on both the international and regional levels. Palestinian-Syrian relations have always been strong and solid, not only in the field of coordination, but also in the field of mutual understanding.

Inter-Arab Affairs

'Abd-al-Majid Briefs Delegates on Libya, Somalia

NC1312203992 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 13 Dec 92

[Text] The permanent delegates of the Arab League member countries held a meeting at the secretariat headquarters this evening chaired by Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid to discuss the region's latest developments.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid briefed the conferees on the latest developments in the Libyan-Western crisis, the contacts he had held with a number of Arab and Western countries' foreign ministers and UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali aimed at initiating a dialogue between Libya and the three Western countries on the Lockerbie crisis and implementing Security Council Resolution 731.

He also briefed the conferees on the coordination of efforts among Arab countries on Somalia for the success of the UN forces's mission to restore stability in that country in implementation of Security Council Resolution 794. He briefed them on his contacts concerning the crisis of Iranian-occupied United Arab Emirates' islands in light of the recent Iranian escalation, coordination of Arab stands on the peace process, and the situation in Bosnia- Herzegovina.

Arab League Head Praises Somali Agreement

NC1212200192 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1900 GMT 12 Dec 92

[Text] Cairo, 12 Dec (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has affirmed, in the first reaction to the agreement reached between General Mohamed Farah Aidid, chairman of the United Somali Congress, and Somali Interim President Ali Mahdi Mohamed to immediately stop fighting between their troops and withdraw their forces from the capital Mogadishu, that this is a positive step. He expressed the Arab League's hopes that a larger step will follow, that of a national reconciliation conference of all the Somali factions to preserve the unity and sovereignty of fraternal Somalia.

'Abd-al-Majid expressed his hope that this conference will be held as soon as possible. He pointed out that the objective of the Arab League since the fighting in Somalia started has been to preserve the unity of the Somali people and provide them with the largest amount of aid to avert the dangers of division and split.

Algeria's Brahimi on AMU Conference on Libya

LD1212154292 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 12 Dec 92

[Text] Algerian Foreign Minister Lakhdar Brahimi left Morocco this morning after taking part in the conference of Arab Maghreb Union [AMU] foreign ministers.

On the results of this meeting, which centered in particular on the Lockerbie issue, Brahimi said:

[Begin Brahimi recording] From the beginning of this problem, [word indistinct] repeated that they are against terrorism. If it has been established that anyone has participated in a terrorist act, he or she must be questioned about the actions and be punished for it. This situation has not changed. At the same time we said that Libya expressed an opinion which agrees with ours, condemning this terrorism. Libya said it was ready to cooperate, and that in Libya there are no camps, training centers, or assistance of any kind for terrorist activity.

It also agreed that regarding the two persons who are accused the court must honestly get to the truth concerning them. The basis of the dispute has been whether Libyan law allows or does not allow these persons to be handed over to a foreign power—Britain and the United States in particular.

We say that a solution can be found to this matter. This siege on the Libyan people should be lifted; it harbors us and is costing us dear, materially and morally, in the Arab Maghrib—materially, because the sanctions affect economic and trade relations and movement of people; morally, because the AMU is unable to meet. Our Maghrebian action is halted. Our relations with the outside world as the AMU have been harmed, particularly the fruitful and promising dialogue that we had with the Europeans.

These are all the things which make us go to the world to remind it of these problems. We again express our hope that this matter will be solved amicably.

As the statement said, this has been an occasion to look into other matters. There was discussion of Somalia, of Yugoslavia and Bosnia in particular, and the regrettable situation in India with the criminal act against the mosque—and the stand of the Indian Government in condemning this behavior, which we noted with satisfaction.

These were the subjects of our discussion. Afterward we also reviewed the question of the Tunisian chairmanship which is going to start in January. We agreed that we should try to draw up our action plan for the coming year at the level of AMU relations. [end recording]

Brahimi was seen off by Ahmed Cherkaoui, the secretary of state for foreign affairs and cooperation, and Algerian Ambassador to Morocco Mohamed Elmasloui.

Iraq Agrees To Receive League Envoy on POW's

NC1312193292 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1854 GMT 13 Dec 92

[Excerpt] Cairo, 13 Dec (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid was informed today that the Iraqi Government has agreed to receive Rashid Idris, his personal envoy who is handling the issue of the Kuwaiti POW's in Iraq. Contacts are under way with Iraq to arrange the envoy's departure for Baghdad in the next few days. [passage omitted]

Iranian-Trained Fundamentalists To Go to Sudan

NC1312191992 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1604 GMT 13 Dec 92

[Excerpt] Cairo, 13 Dec (MENA)—Diplomatic editor Sanyah 'Abbas writes: Reliable Asian sources say that Iran exploited the Afghan struggle against Communist rule in Kabul and the influx of 5 million Afghan refugees into its territories. The sources add that Iran drafted and trained a large number of the refugees in acts of sabotage and terrorism under the supervision of the Iranian Revolutionary Guards.

The sources say that Iran's activity is not confined to the Afghan refugees but that Iran opened the door in the name of jihad to train fundamentalists from various Arab and Islamic countries at camps set up by the Iranian Revolutionary Guards. The same sources note that there are currently 9,000 Arab fundamentalists from Egypt, Jordan, Algeria, Tunisia, and other countries who are called Afghans in the Iranian Revolutionary Guard camps in Mashhad and Qum cities. [passage omitted]

According to a Pakistani official, the Pakistani Government has asked 1,200 Muslim fundamentalists living illegally in the country to leave because they have no goal now that the Afghan jihad against the Communist government has ended. The fundamentalists turned to crime and smuggling narcotics from Pakistan to Europe and the United States to finance the fundamentalists in their countries.

The responsible Pakistani source adds: We cannot remain tolerant forever with those who present themselves as Muslim struggles while their behavior is devoid of Islamic spirit.

Diplomatic reports affirm that these fundamentalists will be transferred to Sudan because Iran is no longer a suitable shelter for them, especially after the defeat of the radical wing headed by the Iranian interior minister in recent elections. The transfer will also take place in the wake of the strenuous Iranian attempts to break the cordon of isolation around Iran because of its rulers' behavior and its rapprochement attempts toward the new U.S. Administration after Clinton's win in the recent elections. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Information Adviser Detained in Yemen

JN1112115592 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 7 Dec 92 p 1

[Text] Cairo (AL-BAYAN)—Diplomatic sources in Cairo told AL-BAYAN that Bassam Abu-Sharif, information adviser to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, is currently being detained by the PLO leadership in Yemen. These same sources said that the official charge leveled by the PLO leadership against Abu-Sharif is holding communications [al- takhabur] in the interest of a foreign state, particularly referring to Abu-Sharif's relations with Britain. However, the sources explained that there is a degree of personal tension between 'Arafat and his information adviser.

'Arafat Message to UN on Palestinian Rights

[NC1112192092 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1345 GMT 11 Dec 92

[Announcer-read "text" of a 10 December message by PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat addressed to the UN secretary general, the chairman and members of the UN General Assembly, and the president and members of the Security Council, on the 44th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights]

[Text] Your Excellency the UN Secretary General, your excellencies the chairman and members of the General Assembly, your excellencies the president and members of the Security Council, your excellencies the heads and members of specialized organizations of the United Nations, strugglers of the human rights movement in the world: best greetings.

I am pleased to communicate to you the message of our Palestinian people on the 44th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which was endorsed by the General Assembly in 1984 to crown the endeavors of struggling nations.

The United Nations and its competent agencies have begun to prepare for a second international conference on human rights, which will convene in Vienna in 1993, after 25 years have passed since the first conference was held in Tehran in 1968. The aim is to revive and develop these rights and to reconsider ways to establish and spread these rights, especially since the world is now at the threshold of an important stage of changes and transformations being witnessed by humanity.

Issues related to human rights and basic human liberties stand out as a symbol and slogan of the new world order in an era which witnessed a great decline of traditional colonialism, and witnessed a tangible prevalence of principles of law and justice. However, next to this bright chapter there emerges, regrettably, a picture of large regions of the world suffering from depriving individuals and some nations of their basic rights to the degree that this scourge has become the hallmark of this new stage. The nature of the conflict has changed from a struggle for freedom and independence to a struggle for basic human rights and freedoms.

Proceeding from the above, calling for holding a second international conference on human rights is a strong indication that there is a feeling of the current crisis and a definite desire on the part of the international community to restore prestige to these sacred human values and principles, so as to lay down the foundations of peace and justice among nations, resolve regional and international conflicts peacefully, and ensure that nations enjoy all their rights, primarily their right to self-determination.

Your excellencies: By proclaiming the establishment of their state through their National Council in 1988 and declaring at the same time their peace initiative to ensure and exercise their rights which were emphasized by the UN Charter and all resolutions and international legitimacy, the Palestinian people were emphasizing their adherence to the UN Charter, UN resolutions and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as well as all charters and agreements that guarantee human rights, individually and collectively. This is in line with the fact that they are deprived of all of these rights, and because the major bulk of UN resolutions and recommendations on Palestine, which have totaled more than 247 resolutions and recommendations, has not been implemented. This shows the wide gulf between the theoretical and practical aspects of these resolutions and represents a conspicuous model of extreme injustice, which on many occasions makes UN policy and resolutions subject to an unjust logic based on selectivity and double standards. This harms the credibility of the world body and harms its mission to preserve global peace.

Your excellencies: Our Palestinian people fully appreciate the role of the United Nations and its agencies in emphasizing their rights, since their basic rights is a major issue of interest to the free men of the world, especially to human rights activists. The Palestinian people renew their adherence to the universality of human rights and the linkage between the rights of individuals and the rights of nations and the basic civil and political rights with economic, social, and cultural rights, especially since the Palestine question is a tragic, unique example of the linkage between the rights of individuals and nations.

The UN General Assembly's 1977 initiative considering 29 November an international day of solidarity with the Palestinian people is a strong signal of the position occupied by the Palestine question—land, people, and civilization—in the conscience of the international community, in addition to the implications of choosing this date, which marks the anniversary of the usurpation of Palestine and the deprivation of the Palestinian people of their homeland and their state in 1948.

This recognition of and support for the Palestinian people and their rights, including their national, political, social, cultural, and economic identity, by international legitimacy and its institutions have not found the right mechanism to be implemented, because of Israel's intransigence and its indifference to international legitimacy and the will of the international community. This colonialist arrogance would not have gone so far, were not for the unlimited support that the United States and some Western countries are extending to Israel.

Your excellencies, our Palestinian people, who have been facing the unjust Israeli occupation for four decades, have crowned their struggle through the power of right, the law, and international legitimacy, with a comprehensive popular intifadah, which entered its sixth year despite all forms of terrorism, organized killing, mass punishments, deportations, demolishing homes, siege, starvation, and the various war crimes being committed by the occupation forces—crimes

which have harmed all aspects of our people's lives, as if the Palestinian individual had been created to be killed and annihilated away from the principles of international law and legitimacy and the provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

However, despite all this tragic picture, our people have decided to live free, sovereign over their free, independent land, just like other nations. They will also continue their popular intifadah, wave after wave, under the leadership of the PLO, their sole legitimate representative, until they end the occupation and regain and practice their natural right to self-determination and full sovereignty on their national land in their independent state of Palestine with holy Jerusalem as its capital.

Your excellencies, the Middle East is still a hotbed of tension threatening world peace and security. It has also witnessed six wars over the past five decades, as well as a large number of Israeli aggressions, some of which were about to go beyond the regional limits. The causes of these wars still exist and contain the seeds of other wars, whose dangers to and impact on humanity cannot be predicted.

Out of our historic responsibility, we warn of the dangers of this situation in our region, as our Palestinian people's cause and rights, which have always been a direct cause of these wars, are still rejected at times and ignored at other times by the forces controlling the new international situation.

We have dealt with the peaceful political settlement through our belief in a just and comprehensive solution to the dispute in our region and on the basis of international legitimacy and law and Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, which stipulate a withdrawal from the occupied Arab and Palestinian territories, including holy Jerusalem. Other international resolutions stress the Palestinian people's rights, especially their right to free self-determination under international protection. We have a good base for a solution in the Namibian example.

We register before you that Israel is continuing to place obstacles to prevent any progress on the Palestinian track of the talks, without facing any noticeable pressure as a result of this procrastination and intransigence from the cosponsors of the conference, which, at the beginning, set a time of not more than one year, after which the transitional period of the political settlement would begin.

We believe that the United Nations is a real framework and guarantor for a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace in our region and the world at large. Justice to the Palestinian people is an objective condition for bringing about peace, security, and justice in the region; ending all the specter and disasters of war; and creating a new world order of brotherhood, equality, justice, and cooperation among all nations.

'Arafat Discusses Meeting With Algerian Leaders

LD1212201892 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 12 Dec 92

[Text] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, was received this evening by Mr. Ali Kafi, chairman of the Higher Council of State of Algeria, at the Presidency. The meeting was attended on the Palestinian side along with Brother President Abu-'Ammar by Brother Farouq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department; Brother Hakam Bal'awi, member of the Fatah Central Committee; and Brother Abu al-'Iz, ambassador of the state of Palestine to Algeria. On the Algerian side there was Foreign Minister Lakhdar Brahimi and Mr. Benyoucef Baba Ali, the diplomatic adviser of the Higher Council of State.

Following the meeting, Brother President Abu-'Ammar told journalists the following:

[Begin recording] ['Arafat] I briefed His Excellency the President about the Israeli iron fist policy against our people, our children, our women, and against the Islamic and Christian sanctities. I also briefed him on the stance adopted by our people—children, women, and men—in facing up to this Israeli iron fist, and that this intifadah will, God willing, continue wave after wave until the Palestinian flag is raised over Jerusalem, God willing, the capital of the state of Palestine.

At the same time I put His Excellency the President in the picture of current developments, particularly with regard to the on-going bilateral talks between us and this Israeli enemy, and how the Palestinian-Israeli talks have reached a deadlock due to Israeli intransigence, and because of the Israelis' attempt to exclude the subject of Jerusalem. Naturally, none of us, nor any one of us nor any one among us, would dare or overlook or ignore or agree or accept the exclusion of the subject of Jerusalem. To us the subject of Jerusalem is a fundamental subject. It is also a fundamental subject here to Algeria, the land of one and a half million martyrs, the land of heroism and struggle.

I have found on the part of the president every response, support, and backing. We discussed ways of invigorating this subject—whether at Arab, Islamic, or nonaligned level—by contacting the cosponsors of the conference, or by contacting the European states, China, and Japan, which take part with us in all these talks, whether bilateral or multilateral.

I can say that my talks were positive and constructive as is usual when we come to Algeria. [The response is] always with Palestine whether right or wrong. But now we are wronged. We have not done wrong.

[Correspondent] Mr. President, how do you see the stages of a solution in the light of the pessimism prevailing after the repeated and failing rounds of talks?

[Arafat] Look, I want to say something to you. If they believe they are going to bring us to our knees, we are not going to stoop. You may remember that the first Vienna talks failed. Yes, but it makes no difference to us. The first talks may fail, the second, third, and fourth may fail, but, and we cherish this, we are the sole delegation that is negotiating and at the same time resisting and fighting, and the intifadah is continuing. This intifadah is going to continue. We are patient and we have strong nerves. If they think they can play with our nerves, well, no one can play with our nerves, and the acts of heroism in our occupied land prove that this people will never surrender, God willing.

The Palestinian people will never surrender, and as you have secured your independence, we will, God willing, secure ours. [end recording]

PFLP Urges Pullout From Talks Over 'Atrocities'

JN1312200492 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 13 Dec 92

[Text] An official spokesman for the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] has made the following statement: As Arab-Israeli talks within the framework of the eighth round of Middle East peace talks continue in Washington with active Palestinian participation, Zionist occupation forces maintain their blockade of the Gaza Strip and perpetrate atrocious acts against every home in the camps, villages, and cities of the smallest territory. In the meantime, Gaza has been sealed off so that local and world public opinion may be kept in the dark as to the repression of our masses.

Under these circumstances, the Palestinian leadership should have brought the issue to the attention of the United Nations and sought political protection for the Palestinian people. The Palestinian negotiators should have walked out of the Washington talks to dramatize their protest over the ongoing brutalities against our Palestinian people. The PFLP calls on the PLO to take a firm and determined stand, and urges international humanitarian and legal organizations to speak out against these Zionist atrocities and step in to protect our Palestinian people from continuing Zionist aggression.

Algeria

Second Part of Report on Boudiaf Murder Issued

LD1313131292 Algiers APS in English 1040 GMT 13 Dec 92

[Text] Algiers, 13/12/92 (APS)—The national commission of investigation on the assassination of President Mohamed Boudiaf while confirming in the second part of his report that "the material author of the assassination" is indeed the Second Lieutenant Boumaarafi Lyes-berk, rejected the "thesis of the isolated act". In the second and last part of this report transmitted on Saturday to the press, the commission of investigation noted "the contradictions" in declarations of Boumaarafi which brings him to consider that this latter "has not acted alone, that behind him there are instigators, a group, an organization". Wondering about the identity of the instigators of the crime, the report, designated first of all, "those who feel frustrated of an electoral victory, those who analyzed the suppression of the Higher State Committee (HCE) such as the confiscation of the people's choice". The report stressed that the material author of the assassination "was formally recognized as being the shooter behind the back of the president, on the one hand by Messrs Guitta Mohamed and Ait-Idir Samir who was sitting as official tribune by the sides of the president and on the other hand, by elements of the presidential security stationed during the tragedy behind the curtain, as well as certain elements of his own group".

Analyzing the "speech" of Boumaarafi, the report noted that declarations "of this "so-called idealist and kamikaze are full of contradictions". Among contradictions, the report indicated that Boumaarafi "expressed in a first time his hatred towards Boumaarafi to further declare "I have not killed the man, but the head of state". He claimed having envisaged since 1988-89 the assassination of Cheikh Bouiadjdel, Larbi Belkheir and Khaled Nezzar, but he do not attempted anything, although he seems to have the opportunity to do it. The commission of investigation, on the basis of the analysis of the "speech" of Boumaarafi said that it was led to envisage two possibilities : either Boumaarafi is "sincere in his declarations" and infiltrated the security services, or he is participating to the "justification of a crime organized by others".

Council Considers Terrorism Courts, Boudiaf Report

LD1313210592 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 13 Dec 92

[Statement issued by Higher State Council on 13 December]

[Text] The Higher State Council convened at the presidency headquarters today, under the chairmanship of Mr. Ali Kafi. While noting the obvious improvements in the fight against terrorism, the Council discussed the establishment of special courts as stipulated in the anti-terrorism law. The Council stressed the necessity of improving the current judicial measures.

With regard to the assassination of the late President Mohamed Boudiaf, following the report drawn up by the investigating committee, the Higher State Council considers that from now on the matter is in the hands of the judiciary, which must make the necessary means available to reach a conclusion in this case.

Regarding the international scene, the Higher State Council examined the development of the situation in Somalia, as well as Algerian-French relations.

Interior Minister Suspends 6 Islamic Organizations

LD1313220892 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2300 GMT 13 Dec 92

[Text] Six Islamic associations and leagues have seen their activities suspended according to decisions signed today by Mr. Mohamed Hardi, minister of the interior and local communities. A communique of the Interior Ministry, a copy of which was given to APS, indicated that the six associations and leagues concerned by the decisions of suspension are:

—The Call and Conveyance of the Message [al-Da'wah wa al- Tabligh].

—The Nahda Association for Social and Cultural Reform [Jam'iyyat al-Nahda li al-Islah al-Thaqafi wa al-Ijtima'i].

—The Algerian Islamic Association for Civilization Construction [Al-Jam'iyyah al-Islamiyyah al-Jaza'iriyyah li al-Bina' al- Hadari].

—The Western's League for Adherence to God's Way [Al-Jam'iyyah al-Niswiyyah li al-Tamassuk bi-sabil Allah].

—The Algerian League for Islamic Literature [Al-Rabitah al- Jaza'iriyyah li al-Adab al-Islami].

—The Islamic League for Fine Arts [Al-Rabitah al-Islamiyyah li al-funun al-tashkiliyyah].

The decision of the interior minister, the statement said, comes in accordance to the circular of the head of the government, No. 903 issued on 14 November, and within the framework of the implementation of presidential decree 92-330 dated 30 August stipulating the establishment of the state of emergency.

Egypt

Plan To Kill Top Officials, Journalists Uncovered

NC1412124992 Cairo AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY in Arabic 1054 GMT 14 Dec 92

[Text] Cairo, 14 Dec (AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY)—Security services have uncovered a terrorist scheme according to which the al-Jihad Organization would assassinate top government officials, chief editors of daily newspapers, and police officers. They found a list containing names and pictures of targeted persons in the hideout of one of the organization's leaders in the city of Ihshaway in al-Fayyum. A machine gun, telescope, and five boxes of ammunition and explosive charges also were found in the hideout. It transpired that the terrorist was a member of the group that carried out the 1990 armed robbery of a jewelry shop owned by three brothers in Cairo's al-Zaytun suburb.

Interior Ministry sources say terrorist 'Ali Fayid 'Abd-al-'Al is the leader of one of the terrorist groups, and that he has been on the wanted list since the attack on the jewelry shop and his involvement five months ago in an attempt to assassinate Turrah Prison Director Lieutenant Colonel Muhammad al-'Awadi on the highway [not further specified]. The sources disclosed that 'Abd-al-'Al was captured inside his hideout in Dar al-Salam; he had escaped there to hide among the suburb's large population, numbering more than 1 million. He was caught in the possession of a list of names and pictures of top government officials, including Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi; Interior Minister Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa; Public Prosecutor Raja' al-'Arabi; Chief State Security Prosecution Attorney 'Abd-al-Majid Mahmud; chief editors of national daily newspapers; Major General Rida 'Abd-al-'Aziz, assistant interior minister for Cairo security; and Major General 'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Hilali, assistant interior minister for Asyut security.

In his disclosures, the terrorist said the al-Jihad Organization drew up a general plan to liquidate senior officials to create general panic and chaos. The movements of the targeted figures were to be monitored. He confessed that he participated in the armed robbery of the al-Zaytun jewelry shop and the attempt on the life of the Turrah Prison director. He gave information about a number of organization members who participated in drafting the scheme. They include people who fled to a governorate adjacent to Cairo after taking part two months ago in some violent incidents in al-Fayyum.

Alleged Extremist Leaders Arrested Around Country

NC1312194592 Cairo AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY in Arabic 1985 GMT 13 Dec 92

[Text] Cairo, 13 Dec (MENA)—Security organs in Asyut have arrested 'Alwani Hasan Bakhit, a student in the Asyut Science College, who acts as leader of the extremist groups in the village of Dayr al-Janadilah in Markaz al-Ghana'im. He was caught with sharp-edged weapons and leaflets in his possession.

In another development, the security authorities intensified their campaigns against terrorist dens to purge and search the areas of al-'Umraniyah, Nahya, Saqiyat Makki, and al-Munirah in Bulaq al-Dakrur and Imbabah.

The campaigns resulted in the arrest of six extremist leaders in their dens upon information provided by "Jabir" [a terrorist leader arrested yesterday].

Investigations revealed that a 20-member terrorist group involved in blowing up facilities and security vehicles was resisting the police. The group was responsible for obstructing the grains train and spreading panic among inhabitants in the al-Munirah al-Gharbiyah area.

It has been decided to set up a police station in the heavily populated areas. Meanwhile, the campaigns continue to eradicate terrorist dens.

Prime Minister Says Terrorism Affecting Tourism

NC1312195692 Cairo AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY in Arabic 1910 GMT 13 Dec 92

[Excerpts] Cairo, 13 Dec (AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY)—Addressing the People's Assembly session today, Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi said that the government system in Egypt basically relies on one main axis: freedom—in all political, social, and economic spheres. [passage omitted]

The prime minister expressed his readiness to hold a dialogue with any willing party. However, the prime minister said, we will never hold a dialogue with those representing terrorism. He asked: Even if we wanted to hold a dialogue with them, with whom should we talk? He noted that a dialogue was conducted with all parties and ideologists many years ago. He said that he and the ministers of information, interior, and awqaf are ready to visit those willing to hold a dialogue, but there will be absolutely no dialogue with the criminal terrorists who attack the police. They are hired by parties inside and outside the country. He asked how he could conduct a dialogue with those who declared themselves independent in al-Munirah village in Imbabah. [passage omitted]

The prime minister cautioned that the incidents perpetrated by this faction are dangerous to everyone. They are, in fact, dangerous to the entire democratic process. Dr. 'Atif Sidqi said that the negative effects of these criminal actions will not only have an impact on tourism, but will affect investment in Egypt, particularly since the investment atmosphere requires peace and security. He said some businessmen have already shelved their investment plans.

Islamic Group Warns Foreigners To Be 'Careful'

NC1212174992 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 12 Dec 92

[Text] In a statement they have issued in Cairo, the Islamic Group has announced that foreigners should be careful. They have warned that they will be stepping up confrontation with security forces. A spokesman has said in the name of the Islamic Group that we appeal to foreigners, Muslims or otherwise, to be careful, because we will be defending ourselves by all available, legitimate means.

Minister Urges Assembly To Revise Law on Terrorists

NC1312160592 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 13 Dec 92

[Text] The People's Assembly resumed its meetings this morning under the chairmanship of Dr. Ahmad Fathi Surur. The Assembly discussed several questions and committee reports on government activity to confront the terrorist groups striking at tourism and threatening the country's security and stability. The Assembly also discussed the measures needed to protect the country's economic resources.

At the beginning of the session, Interior Minister Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa delivered a statement, asserting that the country's and citizens' security is of paramount importance and that this importance increases as it affects the country's political, economic, and social policies.

The interior minister pointed out that the police moved firmly and decisively to confront the terrorists in the areas where they are located to liquidate those practicing violence and extremism.

He noted that all Egyptians, both Muslims and Christians, were alert to the conspiracy against national unity and foiled its goals. He said that there will be no bargaining or truce with terrorists, that they have no place in Egypt, and that we will not allow these wretched people to defame the principles of Islam, the most noble of heavenly messages.

He added that the extremists still have an opportunity to surrender to the security authorities with the information in their possession, noting that the law guarantees their protection and exemption from penalty.

The interior minister asked the People's Assembly to quickly revise legal procedures and physical impediments to ensure an active deterrent and secure full justice.

He said that in their recent confrontations with terrorist elements the police authorities lost 34 officers and soldiers who were martyred or wounded, which enhanced their dedication and willingness for sacrifice to save society from this disease. He added that the police authorities' self-denying efforts resulted in the arrest of more than 90 percent of the perpetrators of acts of terrorism and violence. He said that, as part of a comprehensive plan, the security authorities are raiding the extremists' and terrorists' assembly points in residential areas. He added that the intense campaign in Imbabah, in which 12,000 officers and soldiers took part, came within this context. He noted the entire Egyptian people's rejectionist and resentful stand and their positive stand in support of the police forces.

The interior minister said that Iran shamelessly announces that it supports and funds extremism and terrorism. He added that there is information confirming this. He also pointed to another front adopting the same line in a neighboring country that extremists use as a staging point and center for their activity to export terrorism to Egypt.

Representatives of the National Democratic Party and National Progressive Unionist Grouping parliamentary commissions also spoke at the meeting, denouncing terrorism and calling for confronting it.

Musa on Sudan, Peace Talks, Damascus Declaration

NC1412113292 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1030 GMT 14 Dec 92

[Text] Cairo, 14 Dec (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has said that Egyptian-Sudanese relations are eternal and stressed that any existing dispute between the two countries can be resolved and contained. He pointed out that the Egyptian presence in the Hala'ib area is normal and long-standing. In a statement at the National Democratic Party Political Club, he said that agreement was reached on holding the next meeting between Egypt and Sudan on the Hala'ib problem in January, or sometime around then.

Musa said the Arab-Israeli peace talks are proceeding on a positive path, noting that the quicker we proceed on this course, the better for the talks. He noted that all parties should promote these talks on the basis on which they were held in accordance with the Madrid peace conference, primarily the land-for-peace principle.

On the future of the Damascus Declaration, Musa pointed out that this declaration is faltering and dying, but has not died yet. He said that the participation of Egyptian forces in Somalia to save the Somali people from suffering and the deteriorating situation comes within the framework of the Security Council resolution. On the return of Egyptian Ambassador Ahmad Nami, head of the Egyptian interests office in Iran, he said that he has been transferred. Musa said he has not yet considered appointing a replacement.

On Egypt's relations with the European Community, Musa said that talks with the European Community continue, noting that Egypt's relations with this group are positive. He said that the European Community

seeks to give better treatment to exported Egyptian products and to increase investment in Egypt.

Regarding the situation of the Muslims in Bosnia-Hercegovina, Musa said the resolutions of the Islamic Conference Organization emergency conference held in Jeddah earlier this month are unequivocal. He pointed out that there must be immediate international action to stop the massacre of Muslims, ethnic cleansing, and repression and to prevent the occupation of more land or expansion. He noted that consultations are under way among the five liaison countries—Egypt, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, and Iran—to hold the necessary contacts to immediately stop these massacres. We will call for an Islamic summit to save Bosnia- Hercegovina from these repressive practices, he said.

On the Iranian threats to Egypt, Musa stressed that we will confront with utmost firmness any attempt to intervene in and harm Egypt's domestic affairs.

Cease-Fire Agreement in Somalia Welcomed

NC1212121192 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1058 GMT 12 Dec 92

[Text] Cairo, 12 Dec (MENA)—Egypt welcomes the cease-fire agreement reached in Somalia, as well as the six points agreed upon by interim President Ali Mahdi Mohamed and General Mohamed Farah Aidid, chairman of the United Somali Congress.

In a statement today commenting on the cease-fire agreement in Somalia, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa stated that this agreement shows a responsible stand by the two leaders, noting that the time has come to put an end to the tragedy in Somalia. The foreign minister hoped a state of calm will prevail in all of Somalia to enable its people to gear toward reconstruction, that peace among all the parties to the internal conflict can be established, and that Somalia can play its natural role at the African, Arab, Islamic, and international levels.

Kuwait

Defense Minister Discusses Troops for Somalia

LD1212091992 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0725 GMT 12 Dec 92

[Text] Kuwait, 12 Dec (KUNA)—Shaykh 'Ali al-Sabah al Salim, the Kuwaiti defense minister, has stated in an interview with the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-YAWM that the Kuwaiti contingent which will join the joint forces of operation "Restore Hope" in Somalia will consist of a full company of 200 men of the land forces.

He said that the Kuwaiti contingent will shortly leave for Somalia, where it will be under the orders of the commander of the joint forces. He pointed out that the the duration of its stay in Somalia will depend on the need for it and on the improvement of conditions there. He stated that the contingent will have all the military hardware it needs for the deployment operation.

He expressed the hope that security will return to Somalia so that the country may rise anew and continue its march forward. He asserted out that Kuwait would have liked to send a bigger force had it not been for the current conditions through which the country is passing and the continued Iraqi threat.

Referring to the maneuvers which are expected to take place in the Gulf region, Shaykh 'Ali al-Sabah said that these maneuvers will be extremely important. They will be carried out with sophisticated weapons from the friendly countries, and the Kuwaiti forces will participate in all aspects of the maneuvers. He declared that at present the maneuvers are not directed against anyone in particular, but will be directed against anyone who acts recklessly.

Minister Denies Intent To Sign Environment Treaty

LD1312152992 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1340 GMT 13 Dec 92

[Text] Kuwait, 13 Dec (KUNA)—Kuwaiti Oil Minister 'Ali Muhammad al-Baghli today denied press reports that Kuwait and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will sign the environment treaty which was signed at the Rio de Janiero earth summit conference in Brazil recently.

In a statement to KUNA, Minister al-Baghli said that there is a tendency to call on some of the countries which refused to sign the treaty "at the beginning" to sign it now.

He added that this tendency also calls for working within the group of countries that signed the environment treaty so as to ensure that the voices of the countries which failed to sign the treaty and their views as oil-producing countries would reach the world. This is particularly, he said, because the majority of these countries totally depend on oil as a main source of revenue. He pointed out that their sources of production are the safest, cleanest, and cheapest sources of energy.

It is noteworthy that Kuwait and Saudi Arabia have not signed the environment treaty agreed upon at the Rio de Janeiro earth summit conference in Brazil.

Petroleum Minister Interviewed on Oil Issues

LD1212120792 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0732 GMT 12 Dec 92

[Text] Kuwait, 12 Dec (KUNA)—Kuwaiti Petroleum Minister 'Ali Ahmad al-Baghli has stated that Kuwait will construct a $6-billion petrochemical plant. In an interview published today by the Kuwaiti newspaper "AL-QABAS," al-Baghli says that Kuwait's refining capacity has reached about 420,000 barrels per day, 120,000 of which are for local consumption while the rest are being exported as a refined product. He points out that Kuwait's petroleum refining capacity is expected to rise to about 650,000 barrels per day by the middle of next year.

Regarding the feasibility of joint Arab-European cooperations in the fields of oil and oil industries, al-Baghli says there should be a joint agreement on the need to protect the mutual interests of both sides. This will be achieved as soon as the Arab oil-exporting countries begin to receive a fair price for their crude oil.

The minister also points out that the joining of OPEC by members of the Commonwealth will not disturb the Arab oil-exporting countries as it will reduce outside competition to OPEC since a large number of the oil-exporting countries will then have common interests.

Regarding Gabon's threat to withdraw from OPEC, al-Baghli says: "I believe that the withdrawal of small-production countries, including Gabon, will not affect the organization nor will it create anxiety or tension leading to its breakup, because OPEC protects the interests of its member countries."

He affirms that Iraq's return to OPEC and its resumption of the quota allocated to it will not affect Kuwait's quota because the latter was well-known and fixed.

Speaking about the causes of the dispute between the countries of the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] and the EC, al-Baghli says that the Gulf countries are demanding total freedom for petrochemical products within the framework of a timetable agreed upon by both sides and that the Arab petrochemicals do not represent more than 1 percent of the total products consumed by the European market.

Concluding, the Kuwaiti petroleum minister says that the oil- producing countries, including Kuwait, are opposed to the imposition of a carbon tax, particularly since oil is already subject to numerous taxes. Besides, he adds, the carbon tax will also affect the oil-consuming countries because it will lead to price increases.

Time Bomb Explodes in Music Store; No Casualties

NC1212142092 Paris AFP in English 1352 GMT 12 Dec 92

[Text] Kuwait City, Dec 12 (AFP)—A time bomb exploded in a Kuwaiti music store in the Khitan region near the capital causing no casualties but extensive damage to the facility, the daily AL-QABAS reported Saturday.

Nobody claimed the Friday attack and no reason was given for it.

On Wednesday, a time bomb exploded in a video store in Khitan, also causing serious damage. It was the fourth such blast targeting video shops in Kuwait since the emirate was liberated from seven months of Iraqi occupation in February 1991.

Saudi Arabia

Force Leaves for Somalia To Help Deliver Aid

LD1312185992 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1730 GMT 13 Dec 92

[Excerpt] Northwest Saudi Arabia, 13 Dec, (SPA)—In implementation of directives of the custodian of the two holy mosques, Armed Forces Supreme Commander King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-Aziz, to send a Saudi force to Somalia to take part in ensuring the delivery of humanitarian aid to sons of the fraternal Somali people, vanguards of the Saudi force this morning left King Faysal airbase on a Saudi Air Force plane on their way to fraternal Somalia. [passage omitted]

Yemen

'Anti-Government Demonstrations' Continue

13 Injured in 11 Dec Incidents

JN1112203892 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 11 Dec 92

[Text] A source at the Interior and Security Ministry has told the Yemen's SABA' news agency that the security situation regarding rioting in the republic's governorates is calm today, Friday; that riots also occurred in the capital, Sanaa, and in (al-Dulaym) in the governorate of Ibb; and that a group of rioters in the capital, Sanaa, opened fire at policemen with pistols. The police organs and the security squads have been able to quell these events, which began at 1030 and ended at 1300 today. As a result of today's incidents, 13 persons sustained various wounds, a number of citizens' cars and shops were attacked and destroyed, and some public institutions were attacked.

The Interior and Security Ministry reiterates its warnings that it will deal with these rioters forcefully and will hand 37 detainees over to the public prosecutor and the judiciary, in addition to those who were arrested during riots over the past two days.

New Demonstrations in Sanaa 12 Dec

NC1212093892 Paris AFP in English 0925 GMT 12 Dec 92

[Excerpt] Sanaa, Dec 12 (AFP)—Yemeni security forces fired shots in the air Saturday to disperse two new anti-government demonstrations in the capital Sanaa, near the police academy and military economic institute, witnesses said.

Police were heavily deployed around the city which has been the scene of some of the worst unrest since the unification of North and South Yemen in May 1990.

The reports came after an opposition leader who declined to be identified told AFP that top Yemeni officials and opposition representatives were to meet here Saturday to defuse tension from violent clashes between government forces and demonstrators that have killed at least 11 people in three days.

Members of the ruling coalition parties, the General Popular Congress and the Yemen Socialist Party, as well as members of the National Congress—grouping about 20 opposition movements—were to take part in the meeting, the sources said.

The talks were being held at the request of the National Congress, they added.

On Friday, police clashed with thousands of demonstrators in Sanaa, leaving 13 people wounded and making 37 arrests, according to the Interior Ministry. Calm was restored by evening after the demonstrators, protesting against economic conditions, threw stones at cars and shop windows and police used automatic weapons to disperse the crowds. [passage omitted]

Government Spokesman Comments

JN1212182592 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 12 Dec 92

[Telephone interview with Mutahhar Taqi, information undersecretary of the Republic of Yemen, by Khalil al-Qaryuti—date not given; recorded]

[Text] [al-Qaryuti] What is the situation now in Sanaa and other Yemeni cities?

[Taqi] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. To begin with, I thank Amman radio. The situation in Sanaa and in other Yemeni cities is now stable and calm following the incidents of the past few days in Ta'izz, Dammar, and Sanaa. The incidents were triggered by demands for fare hikes by some truck drivers. This was followed by a spontaneous demonstration. However, in Ta'izz certain forces sought to use it for their own ends. Riots ensued, and private and public property was looted. In Dammar's commercial street, there were cases of looting and property damage. The

damage in Sanaa was on a far smaller scale; some shops had their windows and signs broken, and about four private cars were burned. It is true that there have been price hikes, but this is a worldwide phenomenon. However, our country has been worse affected than some others, given the strains put on its economy by the return of some 1.5 million expatriates after the Gulf war—and these surely want jobs—and the presence of approximately 120,000 Somalis in its territory. Plus, there are outside conspiracies against our country's security and stability. In a word, the situation now is stable, thanks be to God.

[Al-Qaryuti] Government officials and opposition leaders were said in news reports to be holding a meeting today. Has it been convened, and if so, what topics came up?

[Taqi] The Council of Ministers, the Presidential Council, and the political parties have been holding meetings. In the democratic climate that our country enjoys, all parties are duty bound to reinforce this trend. There are provisions in the Constitution for the right of free speech. However, a number of political organizations and parties have taken a stand against what has happened, and have called for prices to be held down, of course within limits affordable to the government. They have also exhorted the masses to resort to peaceful means in exercising their democratic rights. As I have told you, the meetings are ongoing.

[Al-Qaryuti] How accurate are some news agency reports speaking of a high casualty toll?

[Taqi] We are a democracy, and as such, we cannot possibly suppress information about fatalities or material damage. The state media have been reporting the incidents as they happened. In the three cities, the death toll now stands at 11; 60 people have been injured and are now receiving treatment in the hospital. Naturally, there are certain news agencies that are waiting to fish in troubled waters and blow things out of proportion. The man in the street knows quite well what is going on, and security sources have been updating the public about these developments.

[Al-Qaryuti] Thanks to Mr. Mutahhar Taqi, information undersecretary of the Republic of Yemen.

[Taqi] I thank you, and I wish to reassure whoever may be tuned in to us in brotherly Jordan about the situation in Yemen and the country's democratic march and unity.

Official: Riots Aim To Topple Government

NC1112130692 Paris AFP in English 1239 GMT 11 Dec 92

[By Mohammad Haidari]

[Text] Sanaa, Dec 11 (AFP)—Shooting broke out Friday between the security forces and armed anti-government demonstrators in the Yemeni capital, as a senior official said the rioting was aimed at overthrowing the government.

The rioting, the worst since unification of North and South Yemen in May 1990, erupted in the morning and was continuing in the afternoon in several areas of the city.

One witness said police had opened fire for the second day running with automatic weapons to disperse thousands of demonstrators protesting at soaring prices.

"There's a lot of shooting and it's worse than yesterday," said one witness, who was near the souk where the demonstration began.

Police and troops moved in to break up the demonstration, but the protestors regrouped soon after and their numbers were growing, he said.

Clashes at anti-government demonstrations over soaring prices have left 11 dead and 48 wounded in the cities of Sanaa, Ta'izz and al-Hudaydah since Wednesday, according to an interior ministry toll.

Another 250 demonstrators, accused of inciting the unrest, were arrested by police for questioning, the ministry said in a statement read on state television late Thursday. Police and civilians were among the casualties.

"The security forces will strike with an iron fist against all those who attempt to destroy public or private property," the ministry warned.

There has been growing anger here over the disastrous economic situation facing Yemen, one of the world's poorest countries.

The senior official told AFP that the "demonstrations and violence are politically as well as economically motivated."

He said that "disagreements between different parties are at the root of riots" which were aimed at "overthrowing the government and showing that its efforts to solve the economic crisis are doomed to failure."

The country's economic collapse has plunged the government of President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih into its worst crisis since unification.

Yemenis have become increasingly frustrated at the government's failure to solve the country's economic ills.

The bloated bureaucracy, which employs 400,000 civil servants, has been plagued by strikes in recent weeks as staff demand 100 percent pay rises.

The government has given in to many claims, despite the fact they feed the country's soaring inflation, running at an estimated 30 to 50 percent a year.

The situation has worsened with the plunging value of the rial, changing hands here at 55 to the dollar compared to the official rate of 12.

Yemen is still reeling from the effects of its allegedly pro-Iraqi stance during the Gulf crisis. Saudi Arabia expelled almost 800,000 Yemeni workers, a major source of revenue, and Sanaa also saw its foreign aid cut back.

The loss has so far been put at more than two billion dollars.

Preachers Condemn Domestic Riots

JN1112175692 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 11 Dec 92

[Text] Friday preachers today condemned the riots that have occurred in a number of Yemeni cities, including the capital, Sanaa. They drew attention to the dangerous repercussions of such actions, stressing that the unity of the Yemeni homeland, which constitutes one of our people's important and great gains and which was granted to our people by God, requires everyone to be vigilant for attempts by the homeland's enemies, who are concocting conspiracies, to undermine this great goal.

Preachers also pointed out that if citizens feel any injustice, they should resort to democracy, which in our country has defined the means through which the citizens can express themselves—peaceful and legitimate means which do not harm the homeland and its achievements and gains.

The mosque preachers urged the political leadership and the government to hasten to solve the problem of price hikes and take measures to punish those who tamper with prices. They also stressed the need to avoid violence, sabotage, and harming security, and explained that Islam does not allow looting and damaging citizens' property and destroying government and economic establishments. Instead, they said, it calls for making demands through peaceful means and for resorting to wisdom and patience, which are the best way to achieve the just and legitimate demands.

Opposition Urges Government To End Economic Woes

NC1212173592 Paris AFP in English 1627 GMT 12 Dec 92

[Text] Sanaa, Dec 12 (AFP)—The Yemeni opposition called Saturday for a coalition government to help pull the country out of its economic slump and end violence that has caused several casualties in the past few days.

A Yemeni opposition source said officials of the National Congress—grouping about 20 opposition movements—held talks with members of the General Popular Congress and Yemen Socialist Party which form the ruling coalition.

The meeting was also attended by representatives of the influential al-Islah Muslim movement, they said.

It was the first such contact between the various parties, a National Congress official told AFP.

Another meeting was set for Sunday in Sanaa during which the opposition would formally request the dismissal of the current cabinet and the creation of a coalition government to include most opposition parties, he added.

The cabinet will be tasked with finding swift solutions to Yemen's economic problems—a major cause of the violent demonstrations that have shaken most of the country's larger towns in the past four days.

The new government should also ensure that upcoming legislative elections, scheduled for April 27, will actually take place, they said.

Earlier, Yemeni security forces fired shots in the air to disperse two anti-government demonstrations in Sanaa near the police academy and military economic institute, witnesses said. They were the first such symbolic attacks on national security targets.

The protests, dispersed by police, came despite appeals for calm from officials, the opposition and religious leaders in a bid to avert a serious crisis and the reintroduction of emergency laws.

Police were heavily deployed around the city, scene of some of the worst unrest since the unification of North and South Yemen in May 1990.

The demonstrations came after an opposition leader who declined to be identified told AFP that top Yemeni officials and opposition representatives were to meet Saturday to defuse tension from violent clashes between government forces and demonstrators that have killed at least 11 people in three days.

The opposition has been mindful not to undermine the country's democratization process, which guarantees a multi-party system and press freedom.

On Friday, police clashed with thousands of demonstrators in Sanaa, leaving 13 people wounded and making 37 arrests, according to the interior ministry.

The government Thursday warned it would wield an "iron fist" to crush all those endangering state security. The disturbances broke out Wednesday at Ta'izz, in the south of the country, and spread to the capital, and to al-Hudaydah on the Red Sea, Thursday. Eleven people have died, 85 were injured and 250 arrested in the past three days, according to an official toll.

The opposition insists the demonstrations are spontaneous and economic in nature, while the government views them as the work of plotters aiming to overthrow the regime of General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih.

"Unemployment, the high cost of living, reduced purchasing power and accumulation of frustrations have pushed Yemenis to take to the streets," an opposition leader told AFP Saturday.

UN Inspection of Building Called 'Violation'

JN1212080492 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0742 GMT 12 Dec 92

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Dec (INA)—A group of stray dogs, which have come to be known as inspection teams, yesterday morning violated a building affiliated with the Iraqi National Olympic Committee.

The group of stray dogs stormed the building, opening a number of lockers, but failed to turn up anything. As usual, it only reaped disappointment. Their objective remains unchanged: To cause harassment. In the past, the harassment targeted the Ministry of Agriculture building; yesterday, it targeted a sports building.

This violation is deemed a clear violation of the rules and norms governing the work of the International Olympic Committee, as well as a glaring transgression against a human activity that has nothing to do with military matters.

'Aziz Views Diplomatic Efforts To Lift Embargo

JN1212085592 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 11 Dec 92

[Text] Tariq 'Aziz, member of the Revolution Command Council and deputy prime minister, has affirmed that Iraq will not allow the United States and its allies to obliterate the Iraq issue and make the international community forget the Iraqi people's sufferings, which are caused by the unfair embargo imposed on them.

In a dialogue aired this evening on Iraqi television, Tariq 'Aziz added: We must use all possible political, diplomatic, and media methods, including the use of diplomatic activity, to explain our issue to the world and win support for it. He noted his participation in the recent Security Council meetings, during which he presented the Iraqi point of view, demanding that the embargo as well as the other extraordinarily unfair measures imposed on Iraq be lifted.

'Aziz went on to say: In March, we went to the Security Council and presented our issue clearly. We explained to the Security Council the measures that have been accomplished by way of honoring the commitments imposed on Iraq. We also demanded that the unfair embargo imposed on Iraq, as well as the other extraordinarily unfair measures imposed on our country, be lifted. We presented our issue once again comprehensively, providing evidence and data confirming that Iraq has honored the commitments imposed on it, even though it has been unfairly and arbitrarily treated. We asked the Security Council to comply with its resolutions, which provide for lifting the economic embargo per Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687 when these commitments are honored.

The deputy prime minister asserted that his meeting with the Security Council provided Iraq with an opportunity to explain the facts regarding the falsehoods and lies promoted by the United States and its Western allies regarding the situation in Iraq and the Iraqi stands on many issues. We also used this opportunity, 'Aziz noted, to explain the laws the United States and its allies have used with regard to the Iraq issue.

Tariq 'Aziz said: Our course has been based on the clear and cogent presentation of facts, which exposes the other side and provides facts, showing that these lies and fabrications are merely pretexts used by the United States and its Western allies to delude the international community and maintain the embargo imposed on us.

'Aziz noted that during his stay in New York, he had a good opportunity to hold individual and group meetings with several Security Council members who do not have tendentious objectives against Iraq. This was a useful opportunity to clarify a host of issues, he added.

'Aziz continued: As is well known, the world is full of thorny issues and problems. This or that country cannot, unaided, familiarize itself with all the facts regarding this massive and extensive network of international problems. Consequently, we must be active on the international scene, including at the Security Council, so that we may explain what is happening in Iraq.

The deputy prime minister asserted that Iraq's future activity concerns dealings on the international scene, particularly with the countries that came under pressure from the Bush administration or were afraid of dealing with Iraq—the countries that will experience a different situation next year.

Tariq 'Aziz stressed that the important thing in the next phase is to demonstrate firmness and steadfastness, to defy the embargo, and to consecrate this fact. He noted Iraq's ability to deal with variables, pointing out that when the political and diplomatic bans imposed on Iraq are mitigated—an eventuality expected to occur next year—Iraqi diplomatic efforts will produce good results.

Paper Views 'Falsity' of U.S. Foreign Policy

JN1312150292 Baghdad INA in English 1320 GMT 13 Dec 92

[Text] Baghdad, Dec 13, INA—AL-JUMHURIYAH daily for today said the problem with the American foreign policy lay in its failure to lead the human society into a state of stability and peace, despite its claims that it had been working to establish this principle.

In an analysis published today, the daily stressed that faith in some humanitarian value differed in essence from a society to another, and therefore, the United States, with its historical experience, could in no way be the guardian of such noble values.

The paper pointed out that the confrontation between the United States and Iraq had proved the falsity of the U.S. slogans and exposed its alleged keenness on the progress of nations and freedom and dignity of their

people, referring to U.S. statements reflecting its intention to bring Iraq back to the pre-industrial age.

The paper made it clear that the United States had reestablished the system of protectorates in the international political existence and imposed a reality on the states of the Arabian Peninsula, confirming that if the United States harboured any respect for peoples' freedom, it would have ended its presence in these states once the Gulf crisis was over.

It underlined that the American racial view of the Arab nation proved that the United States could not deal with the nation as an entity.

It called the attention to the fact that the American view had failed to realize that the crises that faced this nation were in fact severe tests that refined the Arab man but did not change his essence

Group, Media Criticize Operation Restore Hope

Egyptian Offer Questioned

JN1212190392 Baghdad Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 12 Dec 92

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] Brothers: Did anyone notice Tel Aviv's announcement that it is prepared to participate with the United States in invading Somalia? Did anyone take notice of the Hosni Mubarak regime's enthusiasm to participate with 750 soldiers?

There is a major difference between these two kinds of readiness; between the readiness of Tel Aviv and that of Hosni Mubarak. Tel Aviv is already present in the U.S. decision, and in U.S. and even French troops. The declared number of U.S. troops taking part in the invasion is no less than 30,000 soldiers, and there are also the well-known weapons and equipment. Tel Aviv is present in the decision and the invasion because the operation principally targets an Arab land and an important strategic location to control the Red Sea, which leads up to the Gulf of Aqaba and Elat; it also leads to Suez, the Suez Canal, and up to the Mediterranean.

On the Red Sea there is Sudan, which neither Tel Aviv, Washington, nor by Hosni Mubarak likes. Opposite from Somalia, there is Yemen, which is also not liked by the aforesaid capitals.

Closer still, we have Eritrea, which won its independence by force and whose revolutionaries and people fell in the course of the pan-Arab effort. Tel Aviv was denied the Eritrean ports, which, because of the Ethiopian occupation, were put up for rent and auction.

Therefore, Tel Aviv is in the heart of the operation, and its readiness to take part in it can be understood. But what about the fiery enthusiasm of Mubarak's regime? What task can 750 soldiers and officers fulfill? It is clear that it is a futile and exposed task, which the regime wants to use as a means to beg, as usual, for very little, and to serve their masters with an Arab cover, as if it has become to like this dangerous game; or as if the regime has found a job to earn bread. Shame!

U.S. Motives Viewed

JN1212113292 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0744 GMT 12 Dec 92

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Dec (INA)—Iraqi newspapers published here today have termed the U.S. occupation of Somalia as premeditated and deemed it a violation of all international treaties and norms.

In their editorials, the Iraqi papers affirm that frenzied U.S. arrogance has begun to expand, taking the form of organized international military terrorism aimed at achieving old colonialist objectives, albeit in accordance with U.S. formulas, which are uglier and harsher than those of old colonialist powers.

In its editorial, the newspaper AL-QADISIYAH, organ of the Ministry of Defense, says that the United States has glaringly and unethically exploited the Somali people's ordeal and their pressing need for relief aid to consecrate a serious approach in international relations that covers the old and yet new colonialist policy with the mantle of the Security Council in a desperate bid to legitimize the colonialist hegemony, aimed at controlling the peoples' resources and interfering in their domestic affairs.

The paper indicates that just as the United States and its allies used Security Council Resolution 678 of 1990 to launch an aggression against Iraq, they are now using Security Council Resolution 794 to carry out a military expedition on Somali territory under the guise of providing the Somali people with relief aid. The paper adds that the U.S. hands, which are already stained with Iraqi blood, are now launching a barbarous campaign against Somalia.

AL-QADISIYAH adds: It is true that the Somali people are experiencing difficult conditions and circumstances. However, objective facts and statistics of international organizations indicate that 1 billion people around the world are living below the poverty line. However, the United States has chosen to carry out a military expedition in Somalia and ignored many other areas in the world. This is because Somalia is the weakest link in the chain. Indeed, the United States intends to attack the remaining links in the chain consecutively. The choice of Somalia as the first target for this military expedition was dictated by many reasons, foremost being Somalia's geographic position as well as its subterranean resources.

The paper affirms that the Somalis will reject the hegemonic approach being pursued by the United States to subdue peoples with a big stick.

The paper stresses that regardless of the attempts being made by some treasonous Arab rulers to bury their heads in the sand, they are indeed, by doing so, pushing their

decisions to the brink of the abyss. This is because Somalis, all Arabs, and honorable people of the world will not forgive them for their explicit and implicit treasonous and disgraceful positions.

In its editorial, the newspaper AL-'IRAQ says that the sinful U.S. aggression being perpetrated against the Somali people on Somali territory is a natural escalation of the U.S. imperialist onslaught, which has burst forth ferociously, savagely, and in unprecedented fashion, as happened in the barbarous aggression mounted against the Iraqi people. This aggression, the paper adds, is merely a link in a chain of events that was previously expected and envisaged.

The paper wonders: Was it mere coincidence that the U.S. military aggression on Somalia took place before the second anniversary of the anti-Iraq aggression? Was it mere coincidence that U.S. troops invaded Somalia and seized control of a second waterway and strategic sea outlet off the Red Sea after it already took control of the sea outlets of the Arabian Gulf during the dirty war, which targeted the freedom and existence of Iraq and its people?

AL-'IRAQ appeals to the Third World nations to shoulder their national responsibilities and confront by all means the U.S. impudence and arrogance, which have been manifestly shown at their worst in the military expedition meant to violate Somalia's sovereignty and independence.

The paper reviews the disgraceful U.S. record, which is replete with human rights violations and campaigns of genocide carried out against mankind in the United States itself, Asia, and Africa to promote U.S. interests and gratify U.S. colonialist whims and wishes regarding the imposition of a worrisome state of affairs in complete disregard for human logic and ethical conduct, which must govern ties among peoples and governments on the basis of joint interests and mutual respect.

In its editorial, the newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH says that with the entry of U.S. troops into Somalia, the United States has realized an important strategic objective, which successive U.S. administrations have aspired to achieve for many years.

The paper indicates that U.S. intelligence organs have made immense efforts to lay their hands on Somalia. Over the past four decades, they forged numerous alliances with several satellite African and Arab regimes to control this Arab country.

The paper adds: By endowing the dispatch of U.S. troops to Somalia, the UN Security Council has actually confirmed that it has become an institution affiliated with the White House. This is because this "international" endorsement was granted after the United States had already dispatched naval vessels and aircraft carriers to the Somali coast; and this is condemnable conduct.

Concluding its editorial, AL-JUMHURIYAH says: The Americans said that they came to Somalia to supply humanitarian aid. However, they will remain in this secure and independent country to steal its resources and confiscate the freedom of its nationals.

Arab Liberation Front Comments

JN1312175392 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 13 Dec 92

[Text] The Arab Liberation Front [ALF] has denounced the U.S. occupation of fraternal Somalia which is aimed at tightening control over the Arab homeland and its vital routes and strategic positions. In a statement issued today, the ALF said that the U.S. Administration is exploiting international legitimacy to carry out its wicked goals and plans, while that legitimacy's role and resolutions are paralyzed whenever Arab rights, foremost among them being our Palestinian people's rights, are involved.

The ALF described the new aggression of occupying fraternal Somalia as a serious precedence threatening the fate of all nations. The ALF statement also deemed the operation as an attempt to tighten control over the Arab homeland and its vital routes and strategic positions, as well as an attempt to return to the old military forms of colonialism. This, it added, will threaten pan-Arab security.

The statement urges the Arab masses to confront and resist this occupation through all available means and to work to lift the blockade imposed on the Iraqi people.

'Udayy Saddam an Objective

JN1112102592 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 8 Dec 92 p 3

[Article by Abu-Hazim: "Economy Between the Objective and the Killing"]

[Excerpts] What is taking place in Somalia is one of the many results of the aggression against Iraq. The United States has provided itself with a cover for its military interference in Somalia by way of extensive media coverage of what is taking place in Somalia; satellite coverage carrying painful pictures of bodies littering the fields, children in the throes of death, and emaciated skeleton-like elderly people, children, and young men stumbling about aimlessly.

The U.S. presence in Somalia is also meant to be another justification for its aggression against Iraq and a rebuttal of the accusations world countries, particularly those in the Arab region, have leveled against it by trying to show them that it supports humanitarian objectives wherever they may be. Here, we have a country which occupied territory and they came to force it to withdrawal. There, we have people who are dying from hunger, and the United States sent 30,000 troops to that country. They want to make people believe that they are not against Iraq, its regime, and its principles. They want to establish the American system and what they call the new

world order, even though the same new world order is now being used by Clinton as frequently as Bush. However, those who are conversant with the true Arab state of affairs and what is taking place in the African region know that the United States wants to achieve the following through its interference in Somalia:

First, the Horn of Africa recently began to rid itself of communist systems after already getting rid of dictatorial regimes. Arab liberation movements, in particular, began to assume a pan-Arab stage, though under an Islamic guise. Eritrea won its independence thanks to the struggle of its national movement, which was not known to have any links with other regimes but which had a national ideology, even though at times there were signs that the movement used to be financed by Gulf countries, particularly Saudi Arabia. The same applies to Sudan, which has become the principal beacon guiding Islamic movements in northern Africa. This is so because the religious trend in that country does not have the sectarian constrictions existing in Iran. Also, there are no negative signs in Sudan, such as those which surfaced in Iran, which might force it into a confrontation with Iraq, or with the Arab Gulf countries for that matter. Plus, that country does not appear to be working to destabilize the situation in that region by interfering in the affairs of neighbor countries, as is the case with Iran. We notice that there is a real Islamic trend, which is stronger than the pan-Arab trend in North Africa, even though the pan-Arab trend there has started to overshadow the Islamic trend in the wake of the aggression against Iraq. This Islamic movement has become apparent. It took up arms in Egypt and Algeria. We believe that the Islamic trend in Tunisia will take up arms within one or two years, just as in Egypt and Algeria. As for Morocco, its domestic structure makes us convinced that the various stages through which the Islamic trend has passed in Algeria and Egypt will not occur in Morocco. In that country, we will witness a sudden eruption. We note here too that religious trends have subsidy absorbed the pan-Arab trends surfacing after the aggression against Iraq. This was clearly the case in Jordan, where Islamic trends absorbed the pan-Arab wave in support of Iraq in its war against the United States.

The landing of U.S. troops in Somalia puts the United States on the confrontation line with Arab liberation forces. The landing is also an attempt to pressure Sudan. Weapons and supplies can be channeled across the Sudan-Somali border to southern Sudan to support rebels there and maintain instability in that area.

Second, by having a military presence in Somalia, the United States can keep an eye on Ethiopia, which is an old empire with influence in the Horn of Africa. After the collapse of the communist regime there, the direction of the ruling party in Ethiopia is still unclear and it is not yet known if it is leaning towards the East or West. Therefore, the United States wants to be close to that country, as this will make it easier to build bridges with it. Indeed, if we look at the statements made by Ethiopian officials, we will see some kind of initial Ethiopian approval of the U.S. involvement.

Third, by having an American presence in Somalia, the U.S. Administration wants to provide indirect support to the countries that have no weight on the geographic and political map of the region, such as Djibouti. It wants to concentrate on building foundations in that region to make it easier to intervene there.

Fourth, and this is the most important in our view, the United States has come to understand that the Arab situation has begun to mature in relation to the countries that participated in the aggression against Iraq, particularly the Arab states. Developments around the world are exceeding even the expectations, the plans, and the calculations it set in the wake of the Soviet Union's collapse. It, therefore, wanted to control the major oil transportation routes and provide some weight in the straits after the Philippines refused to renew the leases for U.S. bases there. [passage omitted]

Through this quick review and by observing developments in the political arena, we see that we need careful thinking and political solutions to the general conditions. We also have to find a real, well-studied security-political base, especially in the Middle East since it has become a hotbed of tension. We believe that in the next three years, the region will be potentially explosive, even more than it was in 1989. To prove this, we only need to see the mad and feverish drive by Iran and Saudi Arabia to arm themselves. The true designs of old empires, such as Turkey and Iran, which we referred to in a previous article, have also begun to emerge clearly. We thought that these two countries had differences, but day by day, the fact that they do not have any substantial differences is becoming even more evident.

The [Arab-Israeli] settlement process, which they wanted to use to calm the situation, has provided revolutionary political parties with an opportunity to build and accumulate their experience and prepare the tools to change the regimes, because that process has not achieved any result one year after it started, and another year will pass without anything being achieved. The Arabs are now convinced that they have entered into a new whirlpool of bluffing. Thus, a reaction by ordinary citizens against the regime was generated. Bush and the U.S. Administration made a major mistake when they seated the regimes at the same table with the "Israeli" negotiators. They have dropped the mask from the face of these regimes, which could deal secretly and behind closed doors [with Israel], without the honorable Arab citizen opening his eyes to see what is happening. [passage omitted]

Expected Fate of Damascus Declaration Ridiculed

JN1312150892 Baghdad INA in English 1310 GMT 13 Dec 92

[Text] Baghdad, Dec. 13, INA—AL-JUMHURIYAH newspaper of Baghdad said the Syrian and Egyptian

regimes should have been aware of their tragedy when they signed the Damascus Declaration.

Commenting on recent statements by the Syrian information minister stressing the unilateral and economic death of this declaration, the Iraqi paper said that the Syrian regime must know rules of the game and be clever in mixing cards and understand that it would not even get the leftovers of this game. The agreement provided for the deployment in the area of Kuwait, Syrian and Egyptian troops.

It added that the ruler of Kuwait would not accept an alternative to the American, British and French forces and that he had already announced that there is no future for him but under the protection of the American host.

The paper said, the Syrian regime, bragging clevemess in diplomacy and politics should not be surprised by the fate of the Damascus Declaration and resorts from now and then to useless open blackmail operations.

The Iraqi paper further questioned whether the Syrian and Egyptian regimes had believed that the Kuwait ruler would dedicate the oil wealth to Syria and Egypt and turn his back to the London son. The ruler of Kuwait had earlier donated millions of dollars to that son.

AL-JUMHURIYAH concluded that the mixing of cards undertaken by the Egyptian and Kuwaiti regimes for preparing the theatre of the aggression on Iraq was in fact a response and subordination to the orders of the American President Bush, if it was not a genuine role and involvement in the imperialist design of aggression.

Kurdistan Minister on Progress Toward Unified Army

PM1112100592 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 8 Dec 92 pp 1, 4

[Kamran Qurrah Daghi report: "Peshmerga Minister: We Will Shortly Announce Formation of Unified Kurdistan Army"]

[Excerpts] Irbil, Al-Sulaymaniyah—Peshmerga Affairs (Defense) Minister Major General Kamal al-Mufti has emphasized that he will shortly announce the formation of a unified Kurdistan army. And, that the process of unifying the forces belonging to the Kurdistan parties has surmounted all the obstacles and is rapidly nearing its completion.

In a statement to AL-HAYAH, he added that all the parties have responded to the request of the "higher command" formed by the government of Iraqi Kurdistan under the supervision of his ministry, which is entrusted with implementing this step, and that the leaders of the two main parties, Mas'ud Barzani and Jalal Talabani, regard the achievement of this process as a historic event and necessary condition for reinforcing the Kurdistan administration and its reliance on democratic institutions.

Maj. Gen. al-Mufti said his ministry faced no problems in determining the *rate of the parties'* participation in the unified army in terms of forces. He said obstacles have been surmounted as a result of the complete agreement between the two main parties, the Kurdistan Democratic Party and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, whose forces will constitute the army's "main nucleus." He added that these forces and the forces belonging to the other parties will be incorporated into the unified army at rates corresponding to their size. This includes all the parties belonging to the Kurdistan Front, including the Assyrian movement, and those which do not belong to it, specifically the Islamic movement.

He pointed out that the ministry's law endorsed by the parliament stipulates that the task of the unified army—which will retain the name peshmerga (the word means literally "he who confronts death" and the Kurds have been using it as a name for fighters since its adoption in the Mahabad republic established in Iranian Kurdistan in 1945)—is summed up as the defense of Iraqi Kurdistan.

The law obligates the ministry to work to unify the parties' fighters by forming "*mobilization* and regular units on the basis of detachments, battalions, and brigades linked to regional commands, which, in turn, are linked to a unified higher command." The forces will be distributed in all geographical regions "according to the importance of the area: from Khanaqin (to the northeast on the border with Iran) to Zakhu (to the north on the border with Turkey)."

On the final number of unified forces, he said it will primarily depend on material and armament capabilities, and that there will be no problem in increasing the number if needed. "Our people, who have suffered a great deal, believe the defense of Kurdistan is a sacred duty—which makes them a huge reserve force always ready to reinforce the unified forces." He stressed that "the forces' distribution and organization are based on a defensive, not offensive, military doctrine, and they depend on the human resources and exploitation of the topography of the land." [passage omitted]

During AL-HAYAH's visit to the Kurdistan military college in al-Sulaymaniyah Governorate, its commander, Colonel Kamal Ra'uf, said the first course, which commenced in May, includes 250 students. They were admitted in accordance with the same criteria applied by the Iraqi military college in Baghdad. He added that it was the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan which established it, but since the beginning of last month it has been under the supervision of the Peshmerga Affairs Ministry, that is, the government of Iraqi Kurdistan. [passage omitted]

Talabani, Barzani Groups Accused of Stealing Fuel

JN1212111892 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1000 GMT 12 Dec 92

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Dec (INA)—Kurdish sources have accused followers of Mas'ud Barzani and Jalal Talabani of stealing fuel supplies sent by the government to northern Iraq, thus depriving the population there of required fuel.

The newspaper AL-'IRAQ quotes these sources as saying that a strong wave of protests is currently engulfing the Governorates of Irbil, Dahuk, and al-Sulaymaniyah, demanding that citizens' fuel quotas, large supplies of which were sent to the region by the government to enable the population there to withstand the harsh winter conditions, be delivered to them.

The sources indicated that elements of the Talabani and Barzani organizations have hidden the fuel supplies shipped to northern Iraq, stored them in reservoirs and tanks, and begun to deliver them to their families and friends, leaving citizens to meet their own fate.

Kurdish sources revealed that the leaders of the Talabani and Barzani cliques have been engaged in repressive and savage practices to confront the demonstrations staged by Kurds, adding that large numbers of Kurds have been held in the prisons of Irbil and Sptik under various charges. "Some Kurds have been buried alive in the cemetery located between Irbil and Makhmur," the sources noted.

In a related development, Kurdish spokesmen informed the newspaper AL-'IRAQ that the educational sector in northern Iraq has almost been totally paralyzed due to the lack of heating and lighting at schools in the aftermath of the theft of electricity poles and wires, the breaking of windows, and the use of some schools as headquarters for agent parties.

Talabani Interviewed on Agreement With PKK

NC1312213392 Istanbul NOKTA in Turkish 29 Nov 92 pp 16-21

["Exclusive" interview with Jalal Talabani, leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, by weekly NOKTA correspondent Lamia Turunlu in northern Iraq; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Turunlu] Can you explain the basic reasons for the clashes between the Workers Party of Kurdistan [PKK] and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] and the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP]?

[Talabani] The main reason for the clashes was the occupation of a large part of our country by the PKK. That organization claimed that the "Federal State and the Kurdistan Parliament" were inauspicious. The PKK members claimed that they intended to establish a revolutionary authority and described the Kurdistan Front as a treacherous establishment. In fact, they accused it of acting as a U.S., British, and Turkish agent. They also said that they themselves would establish a state to replace the front. They failed to establish a government in Botan [southeastern Turkey]. Therefore, they planned to establish a government on our behalf in Kurdistan [northern Iraq]. Of course, Iraq, Iran, and Syria were involved in this to a certain extent. Their objective was to have the PKK militants settle on our border. This would move the Turks to oppose us. Consequently, our government and parliament would have collapsed. Iran and Syria, which are opposed to us, planned to cooperate with Iraq to bring about the fall of the Kurdistan federal state.

We asked the PKK several times "not to remain on the border but to settle in an area in northern Iraq, as in the case of the other parties in Kurdistan in Turkey and Kurdistan in Iraq." We informed them that they would "have all the rights enjoyed by the other parties." However, they informed us that they would never recognize our authority. They said: "You are a small group in the service of imperialism—particularly in the service of Iran, Turkey, and Syria." In other words, they accused us of what they were accused of earlier. Despite all this, I tried to approach them myself. I conveyed a written message to them. They failed to respond. We asked several of them, including a number of deputies, to agree to withdraw from the border and resettle in another area.

[Turunlu] Were the deputies you mentioned affiliated with the People's Toil Party [PTP] in Turkey?

[Talabani] Yes. I asked them to mediate between us. That was because we had to defend our border. Otherwise, no one would have recognized our government. They agreed to comply. However, the PKK refused to agree with us. [passage omitted] The clashes were the outcome of their negative approach. The PKK contacted us by a field radio and asked for a meeting when it was besieged by our forces. We dispatched our colleagues to talk with them because our objective was to convince them to leave the border area. Osman Ocalan, brother of PKK leader Abdullah Ocalan, came to meet us later on. He informed us that they agreed to comply with our parliament's conditions, provided that we guaranteed their security. We informed him that we were ready to do so. They asked me to guarantee their security. I agreed. We sat down and talked. We informed him that they could maintain their political activities, as in the case of the other parties. [passage omitted]

Osman Ocalan and two of his colleagues from the PKK Central Committee visited the Kurdistan Parliament and held talks with Prime Minister Dr. Rojfuri Shaweis [name and title as published]. The two sides signed an agreement at the end of their meeting. The PKK members agreed to withdraw from the border, refrain from crossing the border to attack the Turks, exist as a political force, maintain their political activities, and avoid interfering in the internal affairs of the Kurds in Iraq. Considering this, we asked them to settle in Zale.

Tapik, and Nawzang, where we had our headquarters before the revolution. [passage omitted]

[Torunlu] Do you believe that the problem has been solved?

[Talabani] We have no other alternative. We are worried because the PKK members failed to keep the promises they made in the past. Nevertheless, we had to give them a chance. They are our brethren. Furthermore, we do not want the Kurds to kill each other. Maybe God will guide them to the path of reason.

[Torunlu] Have they laid down their arms? How many are they?

[Talabani] Whether or not they have laid down their arms is not the main problem. Some 1,400 of them are living here [northern Iraq]. I believe that nearly 1,000 of them crossed into Iran and a similar number crossed into Turkey. Those who are here are our guests. [passage omitted]

[Torunlu] Were your clashes with the PKK provoked by Turkey?

[Talabani] No they were not. PKK's negative approach should be blamed. Had the PKK refrained from creating the conditions that led to the clashes, we would not have moved against it. Turkish officials have asked us to transfer the PKK members to Turkey. We will not surrender them.

[Torunlu] Turkish newspapers have published several of your statements describing Turkey "as a democratic country and the PKK as a terrorist organization." However, several reports have said that you expressed a different opinion in Europe.

[Talabani] That is not true. I have not expressed a different opinion. The Turkish newspapers in particular distort our statements. I have always said that democracy exists in Turkey. I say the same now. I made a similar statement in Europe. A liberal democracy similar to that in Europe exists in Turkey. [passage omitted]

[Torunlu] Turkey has not adopted a favorable approach toward the idea of a federation [with the Kurds in Turkey]. Can you comment on the matter?

[Talabani] No one wants independence, including Abdullah Ocalan. Let me show you the magazine SAWT AL-KURDISTAN, which is published in Arabic. Here is a quotation from Abdullah Ocalan: "The Kurds in Iraq must reach an agreement with Saddam Husayn and move to establish a system that that will be stronger than an autonomous administration. However, establishing a federation with Turkey is the most appropriate system for us." He has clearly outlined the fact that he does not support separation. [passage omitted]

[Torunlu] An official has informed us that Saddam Husayn has reportedly offered to "accept a federation with the Kurds, provided that the Kurds agree to withdraw their support from the Arab opposition in Iraq."

[Talabani] I too have heard this rumor.

[Torunlu] Do you wish to convey a message to the Turkish people?

[Talabani] I ask the Turkish people, including Turks and Kurds, *to accept the existence of democracy* in Kurdistan. We have instituted a democratic process, which will apply to all of Iraq. We ask our brothers and sisters in Turkey to support us. We also ask them not to be afraid of our federation because it is required by our freedom and democracy. The concept of federation is not aimed at dividing and fragmenting Iraq. On the contrary, it will strengthen and unite the people in the country. The federation will serve the interests of all the people. Our government is strong enough to place our border under its control. There is no threat against Turkey.

Turkey must rest assured in that regard. We ask Turkey not to interfere in our internal affairs. We do not want Turkey to send its military forces against us when we have internal problems. We want the Turkish military units to withdraw from northern Iraq as soon as possible. We have opposed the meeting between the Turkish, Iranian, and Syrian foreign ministers because it will be against us. Why should they meet? The question of determining the structure of Iraq's administration concerns only our people. It does not concern them. This development constitutes interference in our internal affairs. If there was a need for such a meeting, then our government should have been represented in it. The representative of the federal Kurdistan government should attended a meeting on regional security.

[Torunlu] What do you expect from the new U.S. Administration?

[Talabani] We expect the new U.S. Administration to support our federation and democracy until a democratic government is established in Iraq, as the U.S. officials have already promised to do. We expect the new U.S. Administration to protect us against the possibility of a new war.

Opposition Claims Bombing al-Kut Security Offices

NC1212163092 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1440 GMT 12 Dec 92

[Text] According to our news sources, the mujahidin of the Islamic revolution have carried out a heroic operation, bombing a Security Directorate in Wasit Governorate. Our mujahidin succeeded in planting a powerful bomb in one section of the al-Kut Security Directorate, destroying the entire section and inflicting damage on other sections. Many security officials were killed in the operation. Let us recall that this directorate is responsible for the arrest and execution of hundreds of innocent

youths on charges of participation in the blessed uprising or cooperation with Iraqi opposition forces.

Resistance Claims Killing Air Force Officer

NC1212162392 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1440 GMT 12 Dec 92

[Text] The jihad and resistance operations of the sons of our heroic Iraqi people are continuing. A group of the valiant popular forces carried out a heroic operation last week, targeting criminal Air Force Captain Nasir Fawwah Ghadab. The forces succeeded in killing him and threw his body in one of the streets of al-'Amarah. According to our sources in the south, Ghadab is responsible for the death of a large number of innocent citizens—old men, women, and children—during a raid on (al-'Ijar) village in the marshland of the Maysan Governorate a few months ago.

Our sources say that the popular forces pinned a note to the criminal's body warning people not to collaborate with Baghdad's murderous regime.

Opposition Details Antiregime Operations in South

NC1312195192 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1700 GMT 13 Dec 92

[Text] The popular forces have carried out successful operations against the forces and henchmen of the outcast regime in the southern part of the country.

According to opposition sources, the popular forces attacked the headquarters of the district officer in al-'Amarah Governorate using light weapons and rocket launchers. The sources said that the regime's authorities had to transfer the district officer's offices to a place opposite the police post in the governorate. The opposition sources said that the officer is known for his ruthlessness in liquidating and arresting citizens.

A group of the popular forces succeeded in killing a security officer near the sugar factory in the al-Majarr al-Kabir district last week. A second group of the popular forces planted an explosive device in the military vehicles compound. The device went off, destroying a number of military vehicles, armored cars, and trucks carrying weapons and hardware.

Trade Ministry Announcement on Perishable Goods

JN1312170192 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 13 Dec 92

[Text] The Trade Ministry has issued the following announcement:

Statement No. 7 issued by the Ministry of Trade.

Following the decision to ban the circulation of certain goods was implemented on 11 December 1992, and after conducting a site inspection over the past two days, the Interior Ministry and the Trade Ministry have found that traders have exhibited a high degree of cooperation and commitment to implementing this decision. Therefore, the Presidency highly appreciates and praises this cooperation, as well as the high sense of patriotic responsibility demonstrated by those engaged in trade under the current circumstances facing our steadfast country.

Based on reports showing that some traders have not been able to sell their goods within the fixed period and that some of these commodities are perishable, and as a good-will gesture, we have decided the following in light of the Presidency's instructions:

1. To allow traders to store their remaining goods and commodities in places they select, provided these are not their display cases or sale places, and that within two weeks of today, traders should submit a written statement listing the type, number, weight, and/or size of the stored goods, with the purpose of documenting these goods, until further notice.

2. The Trade Ministry is ready to purchase perishable goods if they are offered by their owners at reasonable prices.

[Signed] Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih

13 December 1992

Guard Kidnapped To Secure Hamas Leader's Release

TA1312162992 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1600 GMT 13 Dec 92

[Text] A border policeman, Senior Master Sergeant Nisim Toledano, disappeared this morning, and he is feared to have been abducted by hostile elements for bargaining. Our army affairs correspondent Netan'el Semrik has the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman's announcement:

Between 0900 and 1000 this morning, the Red Crescent office received information implying the possibility that a border policeman, Senior Master Sergeant Nisim Toledano, had been kidnapped by terrorists who are demanding the release of Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, a Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] leader incarcerated in Israel. The IDF's check with the missing policeman's relatives revealed that he left his home in Lod this morning, but did not report to duty. The IDF and Israel Police are investigating the circumstances of the event.

Kidnappers' Demands Detailed

TA1312182092 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 13 Dec 92

[Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces], the Shin Bet, and the police have launched a large-scale hunt for a terrorist squad suspected of kidnapping border policeman Nisim Toledano in Lod this morning. Our police affairs correspondent, Moshe Nussbaum, reports that Toledano left his home for the Border Police headquarters where he serves as an administrator, but never arrived. After a while his colleagues checked into his absence, and searches began when his family members told them that he had left home. A few hours later two masked persons arrived at the Red Crescent offices in Al-Birah, placed a letter on the counter, and left. Fayiq Husayn, the Al-Birah Red Crescent director, told our correspondent, Gil Litman, that in the letter the kidnappers demand that Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] leader, Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, be released by 2100, or they will kill Nisim Toledano. They also demand that Shaykh Yasin be released in the presence of a Red Cross representative and the Egyptian, French, Swedish, and Turkish ambassadors, and in front of Israeli Television cameras.

Our political correspondent, Shlomo Raz, reports that the kidnappers demand that the four ambassadors mediate between them and Israel. They also demand that the government not arrest Shaykh Yasin anew, and their letter includes a photograph of Nisim Toledano's police card. The letter is signed by Hamas and the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam squad.

Our correspondent, Moti Amir, reports that Nisim Toledano's skullcap and several additional items were found at the site where the terrorists claim he was abducted.

The prime minister today briefed the ministers about the affair. Correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that it is estimated that the act was perpetrated to mark the anniversary of Hamas' foundation tomorrow. Our correspondent has learned that Nisim Toledano apparently was armed with a service pistol. He is married and a father of two children, a two-year-old and a four-year-old.

Upon learning of the policeman's abduction, the police inspector general summoned a special meeting and decided on several operational moves. Our police affairs correspondent reports that Commander Asaf Hefetz, the police Central District commander, was appointed to head the team investigating the kidnapping and leading the searches in the central district. A control center was established at the Operations Department of the police national headquarters. The center is headed by Deputy Commander Arye 'Amit, assistant to the Operations Department head, who coordinates police action with the IDF and the Shin Bet.

Government Demands Release

TA1312184292 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1831 GMT 13 Dec 92

[Text] The following is an announcement issued by the media adviser of the prime minister and defense minister: The Israeli Government takes a very grave view of the abduction of the border policeman. The government demands the immediate release of Senior Master Sergeant Nisim Toledano and holds his kidnappers and their instigators responsible for his well-being and release. The government warns against any harm caused to the border policeman.

Hamas Leader Opposes Killing Hostage

TA1312185092 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1752 GMT 13 Dec 92

[Report by Eldad Beck on an interview with Shaykh Ahmad Yasin by Yoni Ben-Menahem in Arabic on Israel Arabic television, "conducted a short while ago in Yasin's prison cell;" the report is interspersed with "selected passages" of the interview, followed by Beck's translation]

[Text] The IDF and the security forces are doing everything possible to establish contact with the abductors of Border Police Senior Master Sergeant Nisim Toledano, who was kidnapped so as to secure the release of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] leader, Shaykh Ahmad Yasin. Our Arab affairs correspondent Eldad Beck is in the studio:

Good evening. Right now the Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic is broadcasting an interview with Shaykh Yasin, in which he is expected to appeal to the border policeman's kidnappers. He has already been asked about his health, and he replied that sometimes it is fine, and sometimes not so good. We will listen to the interview and supply a running translation.

Shaykh Yasin is now asked about the group which apparently kidnapped the soldier. The shaykh, who looks quite weak, says that everyone has a right to live. He is asked how

the soldier can be moved. The question refers to the final chapter of the ultimatum, when the soldier is supposed to be handed over to the IDF. Shaykh Yasin says he does not know when this is supposed to take place. Asked about his view in principle on whether the abducted soldier should be killed, he says: Killing the soldier, killing Palestinians, killing the soldier—these form a series of violent events. He repeats that this is a series of violent events, that everyone is a human being and must not be killed. I am against this man's being killed, says Shaykh Yasin; his life should be preserved. I am opposed to this man's being killed, Shaykh Yasin repeats. [A later report on the interview on Tel Aviv IDF Radio adds that "asked whether he had an alternative ultimatum, Shaykh Yasin replied he had none, that he had no knowledge of any ultimatum whatsoever, and that he had only heard about the kidnapping after the fact."]

Shaykh Yasin now says that the kidnappers have their own objectives, and that the authorities should accept the demands, although he is against the policeman's killing. He refers to the Hamas platform, which says that Muslim law is the alternative to the current Palestinian leadership.

Asked about his and the Hamas' stand on the Washington talks, Yasin says there is no Palestinian who opposes the notion of peace, but he stresses that the negotiations have achieved nothing so far. There is a problem of representation, he adds.

So much for the interview. We should add that it was conducted in Shaykh Yasin's prison cell. He was wearing a white cap, a towel- like kaffiye on his arms. He looked rather wan. His main purpose was to appeal to the kidnappers not to kill the policeman whom they are apparently holding. He said every man's life is sacred, and just as any harm to Palestinians should be averted, the killing of the policeman should also be averted.

These were selected passages from an interview with Shaykh Yasin, which was just broadcast on Israel Television in Arabic.

French, Egyptian Ambassadors Comment

TA1312183692 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1800 GMT 13 Dec 92

[Text] The French ambassador to Israel has told our correspondent Nicole Rosenbaum that the Israeli authorities have not appealed to him with regard to the kidnapping, and that if he is approached he will brief the Foreign Ministry in Paris and await instructions. In his opinion though, this is an internal Israeli matter.

Egyptian Ambassador Muhammad Bayumi told our correspondent Bassam Jabir that the Israeli authorities have not asked for his intervention yet, but he is prepared to do anything asked of him with the agreement of authorities in Cairo.

No Talks Without Proof Hostage Lives

TA1312214692 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2105 GMT 13 Dec 92

[Excerpt] No negotiations, or progress are expected until there are signs that border policeman Nissim Toledano is alive, as our Army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports from the Tel Aviv studio:

[Menashe] As of now, the kidnappers should prove that policeman Nissim Toledano is alive. No negotiations can be held before this. In the meantime, there are no signs or information, only conjectures, assessments and searches. The decision on negotiations, if they take place, will be made by the government. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] surely will have a say on the matter, but there should be a basis for a discussion first. It is estimated that Nissim Toledano's abduction was quite well-organized. The date on the notes left at the Red Cross [as heard] office is 12 December. The press card apparently was photocopied between 0430-0500 early this morning, the time of kidnapping, and 0900 later in the morning.

Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] has kidnapped soldiers in the past, in two instances within the Green Line boundaries and with the aim of murdering them: Avraham Sapporan and Ilan Sa'adon. This incident is not completely similar. There the soldiers were murdered soon after their kidnapping, while this time their demand—the release of Shaykh Yasin—was made unequivocally clear. [passage omitted]

Cabinet Holds Emergency Meeting

TA1412034692 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 14 Dec 92

[Excerpt] A massive police and Army search is on for the kidnappers of Border Police Sergeant Major Nissim Toledano, so far without success. The government says it will not negotiate with the kidnappers until it receives proof that Toledano is alive. Last night, Prime Minister Rabin briefed the cabinet on the situation at an emergency meeting in Tel Aviv. Alan Ben-'Ami reports:

[Begin recording] [Ben-'Ami] Ten hours after the deadline laid down by the kidnappers of Nissim Toledano, the fate of the 29-year-old border policeman remains unknown. The Muslim fundamentalists of the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] organization, who grabbed Toledano early yesterday morning as he walked to work near his home in Lod, demanded the release of the jailed Hamas leader, Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, by 9:00 [1900 GMT] last night. Yasin, however, is still behind bars, and nothing has been heard from the kidnappers.

The Israeli Government, which held a special cabinet session late last night, has issued a statement charging the kidnappers with responsibility for the safety and welfare of Nissim Toledano, and it is clear that no

bargaining will be considered before proof is forthcoming that the border policeman is alive and well. [passage omitted]

Israeli police and Border Police continue to search areas in the center of the country, and leave has been canceled for everyone in the police force. In addition, the West Bank has been declared a closed area from midnight, meaning that no Palestinians can cross into Israel until further notice and that Palestinian workers already in Israel must return back home. This is already the status for Palestinians from the Gaza Strip since last week's Hamas attack in which three Israeli soldiers were killed. [end recording]

All policemen will work 12-hour shifts as of this morning. This was decided at a meeting of senior police officers last night. All leaves have been canceled. In addition, the police will step up patrols around the country, especially in the Lod area, to prevent attacks against Arabs. Last night a few score youths gathered in Lod shouting: Death to the Arabs.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin met last night with senior Likud officials to brief them on the kidnapping. Likud Chairman Yitzhaq Shamir, Knesset caucus leader Moshe Qatzav, and Knesset Member Ari'el Sharon took part in the meeting. Sharon says the government should make it clear to the kidnappers that they will pay the price if any harm should come to Toledano. [passage omitted]

Minister Interviewed on Abduction

TA1413082492 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 14 Dec 92

[Telephone interview with Construction and Housing Minister Binyamin ibn-Eli'ezer by Razi Barqay—live]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Barqay] What are the initial conclusions from the events surrounding the abduction of border policeman Toledano?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] The first conclusion is that we are entering a new and unfamiliar stage. I do not think there is much we can say at the moment. I do not believe the kidnapping is connected to the intifadah. We are unfamiliar with this phenomenon. I hope the affair is an isolated event and that it will be concluded quickly.

[Barqay] I do not know whether you have had a chance to read today's newspapers. The headlines of some of the newspapers express fear of a previously unknown dimension in internal security. This event happened in Lod, not in Ramallah, and the victim is a border policeman, not a civilian. Do these worrisome facts lead you to some conclusions?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] Speaking as a citizen of Israel and a cabinet minister, I can say that when something like this happens, it causes some concern because it took place right here at home. The big question revolves around how this affair will end, what our conclusions will be, and how we will deal with it. I think it is too soon to speak of this, although I understand the concern very well. I know that we can fully trust the Shin Bet, the Israel Police, and the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] to do the job. We should hold the conclusions until the affair is over.

Right now, the main thing is to try to establish contact with the kidnappers, and there has been none to this very moment. Like all Israelis, I pray that Toledano is alive, that he can hear us, and that we will establish contact and conclude the matter as soon as possible.

[Barqay] Minister Ben-Eli'ezer, yesterday we were already witness to agitation in Lod, where people expressed sentiments against the government, even against the mayor, reflecting the general feeling that it is all the fault of the establishment. There were also expressions of anti-Arab sentiments and threats to do the Arabs harm. What can you say about this?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] I think this will be the test of our leadership and of our country as a state of law. I know that the mayor of Lod was approached on this matter, and the police are doing everything they can. We will be tested by the degree to which we retain our sanity in this event, tragic as it is, and by the degree to which we remain a law-abiding society. I understand the agitation, but I believe we will do all we can to prevent the street from taking the law into own its hands. While understanding the crowd's feelings, I hope that this crowd will spend its energy in searches for Toledano at this point, and that later the affair will be resolved to our satisfaction.

[Barqay] Thank you very much, Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer.

Islamic Leader Urges Hostage Safety

TA1412112892 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 14 Dec 92

[Text] Israeli Islamic Movement leader Shaykh 'Abdallah Nimr Darwish has urged the kidnappers to spare the life of policeman Nissim Toledano. Shaykh 'Abdallah noted that if asked to mediate, he will not refuse. He stressed that although he does not condone the kidnapping, the occupation has generated great bitterness in the territories.

Likud Knesset Member As'ad As'ad has offered to mediate the release of the abducted policeman. Speaking to a Qol Yisra'el reporter, As'ad said that he has ways and means to reach the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] people and to discuss the issue with them.

Hamas Willing to Talk

TA1412113792 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 14 Dec 92

[Text] Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] have issued a statement in Jordan in which it says they are willing to enter negotiations to bring about the release of both kidnapped border policeman Nissim Toledano and

Hamas leader Shaykh Yasin. Widespread searches continue both in Israel and the territories for the kidnappers. Mark Weiss reports.

[Weiss] The Hamas announcement from Jordan said the group is willing to negotiate the release of kidnapped border policeman Nisim Toledano in return for the release of Hamas leader Shaykh Ahmad Yasin. The announcement was delivered to a French news agency in the Jordanian capital by Hamas spokesman Muhammad Nazzal. The statement was also broadcast on Radio Monte Carlo. The announcement referred to comments by Shaykh Yasin yesterday on Israeli television to the effect that a chance should be given to negotiations. According to Hamas, Toledano was not kidnapped but rather detained—a legal act because Hamas is in a state of war with Israel.

The statement from Jordan is the first word from Hamas since masked activists delivered their demand and the identity card of the kidnapped border policeman to the Red Crescent offices yesterday in al-Birah. Today's announcement failed to mention how negotiations will be conducted and failed to provide proof that Toledano is, in fact, still alive.

The West Bank and Gaza remain closed off as widespread searches by the security forces continue. Palestinians have reported a large number of arrests.

1 Dead, 65 Injured in Disturbances in Gaza Strip

TA1212191092 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 12 Dec 92

[Text] Major disturbances were reported in the Gaza Strip today. One resident was killed and 54 others injured. The clashes with the Israeli security forces continued into the evening. The worst clashes were reported in the Jabaliyah refugee camp. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman adds that 10 border policemen and one soldier were lightly injured during the disturbances. They were all hit by stones. A curfew was imposed on Bayt Hanun and Jabaliyah following the clashes.

In the Ramallah area, an Israeli couple were lightly injured when their car was stoned.

[A related report on Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1600 GMT on 12 December adds that to disperse rioters in the Gaza Strip, "the security forces used a gravel launcher, tear gas, rubber bullets, and live ammunition." The report adds that "this morning, curfews were lifted throughout the Gaza Strip, with the exception of the al-Burayj refugee camp."

[The report further states that "as part of the manhunt for the terrorist squad that killed three reserve soldiers several days ago, the security forces detained several fugitives and dozens of men suspected of terrorist activities."]

'Terrorist Targets' in Lebanon Shelled

TA1212115792 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 12 Dec 92

[Text] Israeli Army tanks, artillery, and mortars last night shelled terrorist targets north of the security zone in South Lebanon—this is reported by Lebanese sources. Earlier, there were exchanges of fire between the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and the South Lebanese Army, and terrorists along the whole sector. Knesset Member 'Anat Ma'or of Meretz this morning called on the chief of staff not to reduce army protection of northern settlements as an economy measure. News agencies in Lebanon quote Hizballah as saying Israeli helicopters attacked one of its bases in the Iqlim al-Tuffah region, killing one man. Last night, the Israeli Army spokesman denied that the Air Force attacked targets in Lebanon.

Settlers Demand 'State of War,' Sanction Violence

TA1312200292 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 13 Dec 92

[Text] Hundreds of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza settlers tonight held a rally outside the prime minister's residence in Jerusalem, protesting the extreme deterioration in the security situation. Our correspondent, Nitzan Hen, reports that the demonstrators demanded the prime minister's resignation. They further demanded that the government declare a state of war [hamemshala takhriz 'al matzav milhama] and allow the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] to take any action in the territories necessitated by the state of war.

Heads of the Jewish settlements in Hebron demanded that the Army's rules of engagement be amended, and that the Washington peace talks be discontinued at once.

[Begin recording: Unidentified rally speaker] As of today, we will watch over every border policeman, and we will take the law into our own hands. Our soldiers will not be kidnapped. No one will murder them; we will murder others. As of today, we... [drowned out by cheers and applause] [end recording]

Later the demonstrators broke through police barriers and blocked the main traffic arteries of central Jerusalem. The demonstrators demanded that the government apply the deportation punishment at once.

The Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza Rabbinical Council tonight issued a manifesto calling for sharp protest against the government, even if such a course of action calls for violent acts.

Nine settlers were detained for interrogation at tonight's rally.

King Hussayn on Outcome of Medical Tests, Somalia

JN1212205092 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 12 Dec 92

[Text] His majesty the king left the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, this afternoon after tests revealed no traces of cancerous cells. The king told reporters upon leaving hospital that he was in excellent condition and that everything was back to normal.

[Begin recording] [Hussayn] I am feeling in excellent shape and the results are all extremely encouraging. Everything is back to normal, and I am very happy to have had the opportunity to be with my friends again here, and with the results of the exams and investigations.

[Correspondent] Will you be going back again, sir?

[Hussayn] Probably in another few months.

[Correspondent] Do you have any feelings about what the U.S. is doing in Somalia and its intervention?

[Hussayn] I feel very, very strongly that whatever is possible to do there to save lives and to save a people from this humanitarian tragedy is something that all of us should welcome and be proud to be associated with.

[Correspondent] What about Bosnia? The Muslims there are coming under attack. Would you like to see NATO intervening?

[Hussayn] We are involved with the United Nations as you well know. We have a Jordanian contingent with the United Nations. We are following the news with great interest and concern and we would like to see an end to this nightmare in what used to be formerly Yugoslavia. Thank you so much.

[Correspondent] How do you feel about the new administration coming in to the United States?

[Hussayn] Optimistic and hopeful. I am... [changes thought] I believe that nothing will change on the big major issues that affect the rest of the world. The United States' policies will continue to be much the same and will seek, hopefully, to resolve problems wherever they exist in this world. We are old friends. So, nothing will change, I hope.

[Correspondent] Thank you, sir. [end recording]

His majesty's personal physician, Lieutenant General Dr. Samir Farraj, said the routine and intensive tests found no recurrences of cancerous cells. He said the good results proved the success of last August's operation which the king had underwent. Dr. Farraj said the king was enjoying good health and would undergo further routine tests next spring.

His majesty the king entered Saint Mary's Hospital at Mayo Clinic on Thursday for the first in a series of tests scheduled after last August's successful operation.

Minister Notes 'Serious' Situation in Somalia

JN1312000092 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 13 Dec 92 pp 1, 17

[By Fayzi al-Shubul]

[Text] Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir has said that Jordan has been following with great concern what has been taking place in sisterly Somalia since the beginning of the crisis. He said the tragedy had continued there with all its serious humanitarian and political dimensions. In a statement to SAWT AL-SHA'B, Abu-Jabir added that if the estimations of some international organizations are correct, then the death of 3,000 Arab Somali citizens as a result of starvation and internecine fighting means that the situation is serious in all its humanitarian, political, security, and economic angles.

Abu-Jabir noted that the tragedy had resulted in the political collapse of the Somali state and its fragmentation into warring forces and tribes. He added that not only could the state not assume its security responsibilities, but it had also become a source of threat to some neighbors.

The foreign minister said that economically Somalia had the potential to be one of the richest countries in the world, but because it was deprived of security it was now suffering from starvation in addition to political and humanitarian collapse.

Prison Terms Reduced for 'Up to 1,000' Detainees

NC1112141092 Paris AFP in English 1405 GMT 11 Dec 92

[Text] Amman, Dec 11 (AFP)—King Hussayn ordered prison term reductions for up to 1,000 detainees before his departure Thursday to the United States for follow-up medical checks after the removal of a cancerous kidney in August.

Justice Minister Yusuf al-Mahayrida told AFP on Friday that prison terms will be halved for all detainees except those convicted of theft and tax evasion.

Death penalties will be commuted to life imprisonment and hard labour to 15-year prison terms except for prisoners convicted of spying, drug trafficking or "collaboration with the enemy," the minister said.

"Seven hundred to 1,000 convicts and detainees who were not included in November's general amnesty will be affected by this measure and about 100 will be set free," he said, adding that the measure takes effect immediately.

King Hussayn ordered a general amnesty for 1,000 prisoners on November 13 to mark his 57th birthday.

Finance Minister Juggernaut Presents 1993 Budget

JN1412072792 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 14 Dec 92 pp 1, 5

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Ayman al-Safadi]

[Text] Amman—Jordan's economic growth in 1993 will not reach the levels attained in 1992 but the country will still witness a positive economic performance and high level of economic activities, Finance Minister Basil Jardaneh said Sunday.

Mr. Jardaneh said that gross domestic product (GDP) was expected to grow by seven per cent in 1993 at current prices and without including indirect taxes and eight per cent at constant prices and if indirect taxes are included.

Presenting the 1993 draft budget to the Lower House of Parliament, Mr. Jardaneh projected a continued decrease of inflation and unemployment and a low deficit in both monetary and real terms.

The budget estimated total revenues of JD [Jordanian dinars] 1.28 billion for 1993—a 10 per cent increase over the projected figure for 1992—with JD 1.075 billion in local revenues. Total expenditure were estimated at JD 1.328 billion—a five per cent increase over the estimated expenditure in 1992—with JD 987.7 million in current expenses and JD 340.3 million in capital expenditure.

The draft budget, which the House referred to its Finance Committee, projected a prefinancing deficit of JD 47.9 million, a 55 per cent decrease from the projected 1992 deficit.

The budget financing was estimated at JD 359.1 million of which JD 311.2 million will be to pay local and foreign debts.

The draft budget expected the imports bill to increase even though the country's exports will "witness a tangible improvement."

Mr. Jardaneh expected no change in the country's foreign indebtedness but said the exchange rate of the dinar is expected to remain stable and remittances from Jordanian expatriates were expected to go up.

Mr. Jardaneh said the draft budget explains the government's economic policy in the second year of the economic reform programme and reflects its aim of increasing self-reliance, directing more resources towards social sectors and increasing the government's contribution in the effort to fight unemployment and poverty.

According to Mr. Jardaneh, the draft budget is based on and aims at achieving the following:

—Financing government expenditure by local revenue which was estimated at JD 1.125 billion after excluding non-recurrent customs revenue of JD 60 million. This is 20 per cent higher than the estimated revenue of 1992.

—Decreasing the budget deficit to a level not exceeding eight per cent of the GDP, excluding the "Armament Fund."

—Providing continued support for the armed and security forces.

—Allocating enough funds to social, health, educational and youth services. Allocations for the ministries of health, youth, education and social development were increased by 20 per cent.

—Improving the living standards of citizens with limited income and continuing efforts to fight poverty and unemployment. The allocations of the National Aid Fund were increased by 62 per cent over 1992 and now stand at JD 12 million. Three million dinars were also earmarked for the Development and Employment Fund.

—Decreasing unemployment and lessening its negative social impact by giving priority to labour intensive capital investment. Six thousand new government jobs will be created in 1993.

—Coordinating the capital budget with the comprehensive development plan, which the government is still working on.

—Giving priority to social services and refraining from constructing new government buildings unless foreign finances are secured for them.

—Developing the infrastructure for the service sector, and

—Supporting government programmes for administrative reform.

For the first time in Jordan's history, according to Mr. Jardaneh, estimated local revenues cover current government expenditure. This, he said, "marked the beginning of a new era of self-reliance in government expenditure."—an objective sought by economic planners for the last two decades.

He said the "dramatic change in the country's economic performance could not have been achieved without the commitment to financial and monetary reforms and structural adjustments within the economic reform programme."

The minister said the commitment to the economic reforms policies restored financial and monetary balance to the economy and increased confidence in it, resulting in increased investments.

Providing a sectoral analysis of the economy in 1992, Mr. Jardaneh drew a rosy picture of the country's economic performance in 1992 and boasted [as published] a high level of economic growth and activities.

He said the GDP, goods and services produced locally, was initially projected to grow in 1992 by 15 per cent at current prices and by 11 per cent at constant prices. Excluding indirect taxes, the real growth is estimated at 8.6 per cent due to growth achieved by all productive economic sectors.

Mr. Jardaneh said the industrial and agricultural sectors grew by 10 per cent while the growth rate of the construction sector was 22 per cent compared to 15 per cent in 1991.

Mr. Jardanah said the growth of the financial sector in 1992 resulted in a surplus of JD 144 million instead of the projected deficit of JD 107 million in 1992 budget after adding grants to the government. Excluding the grants, Mr. Jardanah said, the projected deficit for 1992 decreased from JD 388 million to JD 54 million.

The decrease of the deficit when excluding the grants was achieved by increased current local revenue which is estimated at JD1.1 billion, an increase of 32 per cent over the initially estimated figures in the 1992 budget. Of that figure, Mr. Jardanah said, JD 60 million were non-recurrent revenues paid as customs for cars by returnees from the Gulf.

Mr. Jardanah said that foreign grants are expected to reach JD 198 million, ? per cent below the estimated figure in the 1992 budget.

Current expenditure for 1992, was reestimated at JD 932 million, a decrease amounting to less than one per cent from the figure estimated in 1992 budget. Mr. Jardanah said capital expenditure was reestimated at JD 272 million, 18 per cent less than expected in the 1992 budget.

Initial estimates point to a surplus of $100 million despite a huge increase in the imports bill expected to reach $3 billion, he said.

Deficit in the balance of trade is projected to increase to $1.7 billion, 24 per cent above 1991 figures, according to Mr. Jardanah, who attributed the increase in the deficit to the imports bill estimated to be $500 million larger than 1991. He said exports are expected to reach $1.3 billion, a 15 per cent increase over 1991.

Mr. Jardanah said that these figures represent real monetary flow and do not include rescheduled in negotiations with the Paris and the London clubs. [sentence as published]

Accordingly, he said, they are not equal to figures shown by the economic readjustment programme.

Mr. Jardanah also said that the investment share of the GDP in 1992 would increase by 27 per cent compared to 22 per cent in 1991. He said all indicators suggest that investment activity would increase in 1993.

Boosting the stability of the dinar in 1992, the minister said, were foreign currency reserves which are expected to top $200 million due to the surplus in the overall balance of payment.

Mr. Jardanah said that 96,000 Jordanians are unemployed according to the latest figures produced by the Royal Scientific Society. He said the economic growth and government policies against unemployment would reduce the figures and curb the spread of poverty.

Government figures for 1991 put unemployment at 18 percent without clarifying the criteria used in measuring unemployment. Unofficial figures estimated 30 to 35 per cent unemployment.

The minister said that negotiations with Paris Club have led to the rescheduling of $978 million of foreign debts for a period of 20 years with a 10-year-grace period for bilateral debts.

Repayment of export and development loans was rescheduled for a period of 15 years with a grace period of eight years.

Mr. Jardanah said Jordan had reached an agreement in principle with commercial banks to apply formulas to the country's debts and to seek reducing these debts or interest charged on them.

He said contracted but unreimbursed foreign debts are expected to decrease by $1 billion or 11 per cent compared to 1991. Actual debts are projected to fall by $700 million or 10 per cent compared to 1991.

Mr. Jardanah said debt payments between 1992-2002 have decreased from $5.595 billion to $4.913 billion or 12 per cent while the average interest rate on actual debts have decreased from 6.6 per cent in 1991 to six per cent in 1992.

Excluding expenditure on debt buybacks, the minister said, servicing for debts will cost $550 million or 14 per cent of exported goods and services compared to $762 million or 21 per cent of exported goods and services in 1991.

The minister told the House that the economic growth in 1991 had allowed for certain adjustments in the economic reform programme leading to an expected surplus in the current balance of payment in 1997 instead of reaching equilibrium in 1998 as initially projected in the reform programme. By the end of the programme, he said the budget deficit will be gradually reduced to five per cent of the GDP.

The minister said an annual plan for 1993 has been drafted for the purpose of strengthening the real annual economic growth to reach six to seven per cent maintaining inflation at four to five per cent, keeping the budget deficit at or below 10 per cent of the GDP.

Mr Jardanah said economic indicators call for optimism about the country's economic performance which "showed an impressive ability" to overcome the consequences of the Gulf crisis.

He said industrial expansion would help foot the bill of infrastructure needed to facilitate increased investment.

The economic growth achieved in 1992 indicates that the 1990s will be "a decade [of] economic expansion that will lead to a better standards of living in a healthy environment that avoid financial and economic loopholes and lead to better utilization of resources," the minister told the House.

Attack Said Second Israeli Assassination Attempt

NC1212171492 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 12 Dec 92

[Text] AFP reports that eight Palestinian civilians were injured today when an explosive charge went off in al-Rashidiyah camp in south Lebanon. According to AFP, an explosive charge made of 25 kg of TNT exploded close to the house and office of PLO official in Tyre Salim Abu-al-'Ayniyn. Abu-al-'Ayniyn blamed the Israeli intelligence service for the bombing, saying that this is the second bombing aimed at his life in less than a year.

A REUTER report says that the explosion led to the injury of 10 people, including six of the escort of the Palestinian official.

U.S. 'Intervention' in Somalia Criticized

Islamic Leaders Condemn Move

NC1912113192 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 12 Dec 92 p 3

[Excerpts] 'Allamah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has said that Lebanon needs an economic plan to solve the problems of the deprived and oppressed groups, not those of the rich.

In a statement yesterday, he said: "Some people are talking about aid to reconstruct the country through Gulf and Lebanese businessmen, but we believe there is a difference between helping Lebanon to help it rebuild and rehabilitate the country through capitalist investors who pay one hundred only to gain one thousand [no currency as published] through real estate and establishments provided by the Lebanese." [passage omitted]

Discussing human rights, Fadlallah asked: "What does the United Nations do when it comes to the human rights of the Lebanese people? It did nothing to condemn Israel and its occupation."

He added: The United Nations and the world moved when the issue concerned the American hostages, but they failed to move to obtain the release of Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd and the other Lebanese prisoners. The United Nations is now linked with the U.S. Administration. [passage omitted]

Fadlallah condemned "the U.S. occupation of Somalia" and asked: "Why should the United States use 10,000 troops to Somalia? Is it because it seeks to establish a military presence in the Horn of Africa? Can't the United States use the same pretext to enter other countries, such as Sudan for example?"

He further asked: "Why has the Arab League not been assigned to send forces to Somalia? Why did the Organization of African Unity not interfere as it did in Liberia? We are worried about Sudan and that what is being prepared in south Sudan may be used as an excuse for a U.S. landing. If our expectations materialize, no one will escape and the world will come under U.S. authority in one way or another. [no closing quotation marks as published]

In a lecture on the "International Day of Human Rights," Fadlallah accused human rights committees of acting on behalf of American or European intelligence or some Third World regimes. He said: "While we do not want to reject human rights committees, we do not want to give them confidence. We know that American or European intelligence might use human rights committees against their agents and allies if they wanted to create a certain political situation to serve their purposes. [passage omitted]

In a related development, Deputy Dr. Fathi Yakan, secretary general of the Islamic Group in Lebanon, has called on the Arabs and Muslims to be aware of what is happening around them. He urged peoples and rulers to close ranks and work for their unity, power, and freedom.

Yakan noted that the U.S. Administration, just before the end of President George Bush's term, is preoccupied with controlling the world's strategic, vital, and productive regions, especially in the Middle East, the Far East, and Africa.

He said all this is part of a scenario aimed at thwarting any attempt toward an Islamic or Arab awakening that would create some balance in the unjust and totalitarian world order.

He said: "The American intervention in Somalia aims to establish an American and Atlantic base there to besiege and abort growing national Islamic liberation movements, especially in Sudan and North Africa."

Hizballah Comments

NC1212083092 Beirut Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0830 GMT 12 Dec 92

[Text] Commenting on the developments in Somalia, Haj Husayn al-Khalil, head of Hizballah's Political Bureau, has denounced the hideous massacre being perpetrated against our kinsfolk and brothers in Somalia.

In a press statement, he asked the French people to stand up boldly to [word indistinct] to put an end to the so-called Operation Restore Hope, which causes people to lose, not restore hope. He said the French Government is not content with backing and aiding the ill-fated U.S. plan to occupy Somalia, but rushed to fire the first bullet, giving the best proof of obedience and loyalty to the U.S. Administration to assert its foreign policy of subservience.

Cleric Attacks 'Occupation'

NC1112153292 Shamyh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1230 GMT 11 Dec 92

[Text] Shaykh Mahir Hammud, member of the Muslim Ulema Grouping, has declared that the Muslims are currently targets of attacks everywhere: in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Somalia, India, Palestine, and the Occupied Arab Territories. He called for closing ranks and joining efforts to confront the conspiracies hatched against us everywhere. He noted that Zionism is the masterminds of all such bloody plots.

Shaykh Hammud condemned the new occupation of Somalia by the United States, which is using a false humanitarian front. He revealed that the Muslim Ulema Grouping has begun contacts with the good works society, the Islamic Group, and other Islamic forces concerned with the general Islamic situation. He said that the Ulema Grouping delegation reached agreement with these groups to halt the media campaigns against the leaders of the Islamic movement because publicizing certain disagreements in the media harms everyone. He affirmed: We are all targets. We must coordinate our efforts. Ours are days of resistance, and there is honor from the sacrifices.

Afghanistan

Settlement Council Meeting Postponed

LD1312120892 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 13 Dec 92

[Text] The Resolution and Settlement Council [Shura-ye Hal wa 'Aqd], which was to elect Afghanistan's future president, has not convened. Burhanuddin Rabbani has announced that he will remain in his post until the election of a successor. He said that he will only relinquish power next week if the Afghan Leadership Council chooses his successor. Rabbani's term as Afghanistan's interim president expires on 15 December. The Resolution and Settlement Council was to meet yesterday to elect that country's president for the next one and a half years. A spokesman for Afghanistan's interim president announced the postponement of the council's meeting.

Officials Council Will Be Convened

LD1312175692 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1715 GMT 13 Dec 92

[Text] Chairman of Central Commission for the convocation of the Resolution and Settlement Council [Ahl-e Hal wa Aqd Shura], esteemed Nurullah Emad, assured foreign and domestic journalists at a news conference today that the Council will be convened on time.

A BIA correspondent reported from the news conference that the chairman of Central Commission for the convocation of the Resolution and Settlement Council added at the news conference that peoples' elected representatives to the council have been [word indistinct] with the cooperation of the Ministry of Defense. The meeting will last for three days and will elect the future leadership of Afghanistan.

Esteemed Emad said that the work of the supervisory board over electing the representatives has been completed and those districts that have not elected their delegates so far should elect their representatives very soon and send them to provincial capitals for transferring to Kabul.

Party Leader Calls for Council

LD1212175392 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 12 Dec 92

[Text] Sebghatullah Mojaddedi, leader of Afghanistan's National Salvation Front [Jebha-ye Nejat-e Melli] and former president of that country's interim government, called for the convention of the Leadership Council and the election of the future Afghan president by that council. He said: A number of Afghan leaders are against the method in which the Resolution and Settlement Council [Shura-ye Hal wa 'Aqd] is being established. In the interview, Mojaddedi said that Afghan Defense Minister Ahmad Shah Mas'ud was responsible for the recent battle. He proposed the formation of a joint force comprising representatives from four neutral parties to try to establish a permanent peace among the warring parties.

Peace Delegation Forces Positioned in Clash Areas

LD1212121392 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 12 Dec 92

[Text] The Kabul city peace delegation has given assurances to the people of Afghanistan that clashes between the Unity Party [Hezb-e Wahdat] and Supervisory Council [Shura-e Nazar] have ended. Matters are completely under control and efforts are under way to achieve a permanent cease-fire between these groups.

According to a report by our correspondent in Kabul, Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Erfani, a peace delegation member, has announced that the Kabul Security Council has completely brought under control all the factors leading to the resumption of clashes during the past two days. Following an agreement between the parties involved, forces selected by the peace delegation have been stationed in areas where clashes took place, 'Erfani stated.

The same report says that serious efforts will begin today to arrange the release of captives from both sides.

Bangladesh

Indian Minister Requests End to Attacks on Hindus

BK1112093092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 11 Dec 92

[Text] India has asked Bangladesh to take immediate and appropriate measures to stop attacks on properties and places of worship of Hindus, including the Indian diplomatic premises. The visiting minister of state for external affairs, Mr. R.L. Bhatia, told the Bangladesh foreign minister, Mr. S.N. Mustafizur Rahman, that acts of violence against the minorities in that country could have serious consequences in India.

Mr. Bhatia is in Dhaka to attend the two-day SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] ministerial meeting which will finalize the agenda for the seventh SAARC summit.

Pakistan's Sharif Meets Zia, Blames

BK1212163292 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1430 GMT 12 Dec 92

[Text] Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif have reaffirmed their firm commitment to strengthen regional cooperation and expressed the hope that the forthcoming South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation [SAARC] summit scheduled for 13 and 14 January will make a significant contribution in taking concrete steps toward this objective. During a meeting held in a sincere and cordial

atmosphere for more than half an hour in Dhaka today, the two leaders fully agreed that there is a great scope for development of bilateral relations between Bangladesh and Pakistan. A spokesman of the Foreign Ministry told newsmen after the meeting that the two leaders held talks on bilateral, regional, and international issues.

The Pakistani prime minister called on President Abdur Rahman Biswas at the presidential residence this afternoon. They held talks on various issues including SAARC. Biswas praised the Islamabad government for its decision to repatriate the stranded Pakistanis from Bangladesh. He expressed the hope that the friendly ties between the two countries will further strengthen in the years to come.

The Pakistani prime minister visited the national martyrs memorial at Savar and laid wreaths there. Nawaz Sharif also signed the visitor's book expressing Pakistan's solidarity with Bangladesh. Later, Works Minister Rafiqul Islam Mian presented the Pakistani prime minister a replica of the national martyrs memorial. The Pakistani prime minister planted a sapling there. Nawaz Sharif also visited the tomb of martyr President Ziaur Rahman and paid respects to him in Dhaka this evening. He prayed for the salvation of the martyred soul. The Pakistani prime minister was accompanied by his delegation members.

Premadasa, Zia Discuss Bilateral, SAARC Issues

BK1212004892 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 0130 GMT 11 Dec 92

[Text] Bangladesh and Sri Lanka will work together in maintaining the forward momentum of SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation]. A Foreign office spokesman stated this while briefing newsmen after the talks between visiting Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia in Dhaka yesterday. He said both the leaders had exchanged views on SAARC matters and bilateral issues. The SAARC issues discussed at the talks included three core issues to be discussed at the forthcoming SAARC summit in Dhaka. The issues are poverty alleviation; creation of a South Asian Development Bank, SADB; and efforts to liberalize trade in the region through signing of the South Asian Preferential Trade Agreement, SAPTA.

The spokesman said that both sides have agreed on improving trade and commerce by encouraging chambers of the two countries to promote trade bilaterally and under SAARC chambers. He said they agreed to increase educational and cultural links between the two sides. They also agreed to establish direct air links between Dhaka and Colombo soon.

Foreign Minister Mustafizur Rahman, Minister In-Waiting Dr. Musharaf Hussain, Principal Secretary To the Prime Minister K.M. Rahmi, and Bangladesh High Commissioner to Sri Lanka Shamsul Matin Chowdhury assisted Prime Minister Khaleda Zia. Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Harold Herath, adviser to the president on international affairs Bradman Weerakoon, Foreign Secretary Bernard Tilakaratane, and Sri Lankan High Commissioner to Bangladesh Alfred David aided President Premadasa at the talks.

The Sri Lankan president, who is also the current chairman of the SAARC, will have another round of bilateral talks with Prime Minister Khaleda Zia today. Mr. Premadasa is also expected to have tripartite discussion on SAARC matters with the Bangladesh leader and the Pakistan prime minister.

One More Killed as Communal Violence Continues

BK1212082092 Hong Kong AFP in English 0606 GMT 12 Dec 92

[Text] Dhaka, Dec 12 (AFP)—One more person died and some 70 were injured in violence across Bangladesh triggered by the destruction by Hindus of an ancient mosque in neighbouring India, reports and sources said Saturday.

Angry Muslims attacked Hindu temples and homes Thursday and Friday, despite appeals for calm by the Government of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and opposition parties.

The fundamentalist Jamaat-e-Islami has repeatedly said Bangladeshi Muslims would rest in peace "only after the Babri Mosque is rebuilt on its original site," leading to calls from rival parties for its leaders to be punished for inciting communal violence.

The DAILY STAR newspaper said one Hindu man was killed and 19 injured in Feni, Zia's home district, when police opened fire after the house of a Hindu resident came under mob attack midnight Thursday.

Residents, quoting police and other sources, said fanatical Muslims went on a rampage in Sitakunda area of southeastern Chittagong, leaving some 50 people injured and Hindu temples damaged or destroyed.

In southwestern Kushtia and southern Pirojpur Districts, police also fought running battles with fanatics attacking temples and Hindu property, reports said Saturday.

The deaths brought the toll in four days of nationwide violence to nine and more than 700 injured, according to the latest available reports.

One report said two Hindus were arrested for trying to torch temples. [sentence as received]

Bangladesh opposition groups held a joint peace rally here Friday calling for peace and communal harmony.

Sheikh Hasina Wajed, leader of the main opposition Awami League, ordered her supporters Friday to form "peace brigades" in their respective areas to ensure

communal peace and to prevent harassment of minority communities by Jamaat or the right-wing Freedom Party supporters, reports said.

India

Concern Expressed to Pakistan Over Temple Attacks

BK1112135092 Delhi All India Radio Network in Hindi 1330 GMT 11 Dec 92

[Text] India has expressed concern to Pakistan over the attacks on places of worship of the minorities in Pakistan. Shahid Malik, deputy high commissioner of Pakistan, was summoned to the Foreign Office in New Delhi today and was apprised of the Indian Government's concern. The Pakistan deputy high commissioner's attention was drawn to the Pakistani press reports that during the riots there 60 places of worship of the minorities were destroyed. The deputy high commissioner's attention was also drawn to the distressing reports that some mobs attacking the places of worship were led by noted leading citizens of Pakistan.

BJP Protests Demolition of Temples in Pakistan

BK1412130892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 14 Dec 92

[Text] The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] has protested against the reported demolition of temples and gurdwaras [Sikh temples] in Pakistan in the wake of the Ayodhya developments. Several workers of the party's Delhi unit led by the national general secretary, Mr. Mahabal Khurana, courted arrest today for violating prohibitory orders. Later, they handed over a memorandum to police officials to be submitted at the Pakistan High Commission.

Meanwhile, the party vice president, Mr. Kishanlal Sharma, has demanded a thorough inquiry into the recent riots in different parts of the country and punishment for those responsible for engineering the incidents.

Further Domestic Aftermath of Ayodhya Events

'Further Improvement' Noted

BK1413045192 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0345 GMT 14 Dec 92

[Text] Curfew is being lifted fully or relaxed for longer hours in most parts of the country today following further improvement in the law and order situation. In Uttar Pradesh, life in 34 curfew-bound areas is normal. According to official sources, curfew is being relaxed in over two dozen areas following improvement in the situation. Reports say that there has been significant improvement in the situation in Kanpur, Varanasi, Ayodhya, and Faizabad.

In Rajasthan, day curfew will be lifted in the curfew-bound areas of Dungarpur from 0700 this morning. In West Bengal, curfew will be relaxed for a longer period of 17 hours in Calcutta, except Tangra and portions of Entally police stations, Howrah, and Barrackpore subdivision of the North 24 Parganas district.

In Madhya Pradesh, the situation in Bhopal and other curfew-bound cities has significantly improved. The authorities have decided either to lift the day curfew or relax it for longer periods in many areas. In Indore, Ratlam also the day curfew is being lifted today, while in Ujjain it is being relaxed from 0800 to 1700. Meanwhile, the district collector of Ujjain has denied that the army was called out yesterday to ensure peace in the city.

In Bihar, the overall law and order situation in the curfew-bound cities remains peaceful. According to the state home secretary, curfew will be relaxed today in several cities at different times. He said that essential commodities are being provided in the curfew-bound cities.

In Andhra Pradesh, in view of the improved situation, day curfew has been lifted at all places including old and new cities of Hyderabad. Educational institutions were reopened today after a week's closure.

The situation in Bombay city is also normal. The curfew was reimposed in some selected localities in south Bombay and eastern suburbs from 2000 yesterday to 0600 today. The Bombay police commissioner said the lifting of curfew will be decided after careful assessment of the situation.

In Gujarat, the authorities have announced curfew relaxation for three hours today in Dariapur, Kalupur, Ommanpur, Shahpur, Kandla, and Karaj police station areas, Haveli, Bijalpur, and Maninagar. The curfew is being lifted today in (Enner) and Kankaria police chowkis [posts] following within the Karlapith police station.

In Karnataka, the situation in Mysore city continues to be tense. Additional police forces have been deployed to deal with the situation effectively. According to the additional director general of police, night curfew was extended to many areas in the district. He said no report of violence was received from any other place in the state.

In Assam, curfew is being relaxed in all places for longer durations. The district authorities have been asked to gear up relief and rehabilitation activities. A large number of affected people are still in makeshift relief camps. The deputy chairman of the Planning Commission, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, is visiting the affected areas of Khajuri subdivision of Nowgong district. The chief minister, Mr. Hiteshwar Saikia, and the union minister of state for steel, Mr. Santosh Mohan Dev, will tour the affected areas in Dhubri district. The curfew relaxation in the walled city of Delhi has been increased by one hour.

BJP Leaders Arrested in W. Bengal

BK1312082992 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 13 Dec 92

[Text] According to UNI, in West Bengal, seven BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] leaders, including the state unit president and the national vice president, were arrested in Calcutta today. The agency quoting official sources said that they were arrested on charges of disturbing communal amity. The police said that the leaders have been taken into custody as a precautionary measure.

In Uttar Pradesh, the police made several arrests, including that of some leaders of the outlawed organizations. The arrests followed the high-level meeting of the three advisers, the home secretary, and the state police chief last night to act on the center's notification banning five organizations.

More Arrests Made

BK1412010992 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 14 Dec 92

[Text] Most of the states have initiated actions to enforce the ban on the RSS [Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh] and four other communal organizations. In Uttar Pradesh, over 800 arrests have been made in this connection and action taken to seal the offices of the banned organizations. The adviser to the state governor, Mr. R.K. Goswami, said in Lucknow that the largest number of arrests was made in Varanasi Division.

In West Bengal, over 100 activists of the RSS, Jamaat-i-Islami, and other banned organizations were arrested till Saturday. This was stated by the state information and cultural affairs minister, Mr. Buddhadeb Bhattacharya, in Calcutta.

In Kerala, over 200 persons were arrested and 66 offices sealed. These include 30 offices of the RSS, seven of the VHP [Vishwa Hindu Parishad], eight of the ISS [Islamic Sevak Sangh], and 10 of the Jamaat-i-Islami. Reports received from Dhanbad and Jamshedpur in Bihar said that the administration has started taking action against the banned organizations. The home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, has asked the state governments to strictly enforce restrictions on the banned organizations under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act.

Banned Islamic Organization Dissolved

BK1112124692 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 11 Dec 92

[Text] The Islamic Sevak Sangh—ISS, one of the five communal organizations banned by the government, has been dissolved. This was stated by spokesmen of the Kerala-based organization in Ashtanpur today.

Opposition Opposes Mid-Term Elections

BK1112155692 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 11 Dec 92

[Text] The National Front-Left Front combine says the task of exposing and isolating communal forces needs to be given the top priority in the present situation. In a statement issued in New Delhi today, the combine welcomed the ban on five communal organizations and said a nationwide mass struggle against such forces is necessary to save the country from going back to medieval barbarism. Talking to our correspondent, the CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] leader, Mr. Harkishan Singh Surjit, said the combine is not attaching top priority to the demand for resignation of the Narasimha Rao government as mid-term elections at this juncture would divide the country. The signatories to the statement include Mr. V.P. Singh, Mr. I.K. Gujral—both Janata Dal, Mr. Indersen Gupta, CPI; and Mr Harkishan Singh Surjit, CPI-M.

The Samajwadi Janata Party president, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, has said that his party will cooperate with the government in its endeavor to restore peace and harmony. In a statement in New Delhi, he, however, demanded that the prime minister should spell out in detail his proposal to unite all secular forces in a fight against communalism.

CBI Asked To Investigate

BK1112144892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 11 Dec 92

[Text] The Central Bureau of Investigation [CBI] has been asked to investigate into the events which took place in Ayodhya last Sunday. Announcing this in New Delhi today, an official spokesman said the center has handed over the investigation to the CBI with the consent of the Uttar Pradesh government. He said a case relating to various offenses in connection with the Ayodhya incidents has already been registered with the police.

Press Cooperation Sought

BK1212102692 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 11 Dec 92

[Text] The home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, has urged the chief ministers to pay proper compensation to the victims of disturbances in various parts of the country since the 6th of December. Mr. Chavan told Doordarshan in New Delhi today, that the center will provide every possible assistance to the states to bring the law and order situation under control.

[Begin Chavan recording] ...Unfortunately, this led to a kind of communal flare-up in all the states which deserves to be curbed by all concerned. By now, quite a large number of people have lost their lives. I have requested all the chief ministers to pay proper compensation in this matter, and whatever assistance, either in

the shape of paramilitary forces or in sending the army—that kind of assistance will always be available.

I have to request all the print media and especially the vernacular press to kindly cooperate with the government according to the Press Council's appeal itself. Such sensitive matters, they should not give a kind of publicity which will incite some kind of a passion among the different sections of the people. [end recording]

Missile-equipped Vessel Joins Indian Naval Fleet

BK1212112292 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 12 Dec 92

[Text] A sophisticated vessel, missile craft, Vidyut, has joined the Indian Naval fleet. It was formally commissioned into the Navy at Vasaco da Gama near Panaji today. Vidyut was built and launched by the Goa Shipyard Limited, a defense public sector unit, in record time.

Iran

Pakistani Defense Minister Begins Visit

LD1212145092 Tehran IRNA in English 1312 GMT 12 Dec 92

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 12, IRNA—Pakistan's Defence Minister Syed Ghaus Ali Shah in a statement on his arrival here Friday expressed "gratitude of the Government and people of Pakistan for Iran's principled stand and support for the Indian Muslims and the forthright condemnation of the desecration and destruction of the Babri Masjid" in India.

Ali Shah, heading a high-level delegation, was welcomed at the airport by his Iranian counterpart Akbar Torkan and other Defence Ministry's senior officials.

The Pakistani official in his statement referred to "the immutable bonds of amity and friendship which have united the two peoples for millennia" and expressed hope that his visit would lead to "further strengthening of relations between the two brotherly neighbouring countries."

During his stay in Iran, the Pakistani minister is expected to hold talks with senior Iranian officials and military commanders, including President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Majles speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Nateq-Nuri. He is also to visit several Iranian military institutions.

Immediately after arrival, he paid homage to the shrine of the late founder of the Islamic Republic Imam Khomeyni.

Meets Nateq-Nuri

LD1312191092 Tehran IRNA in English 1828 GMT 13 Dec 92

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 13, IRNA—Visiting Pakistani defence minister, Gaus Ali Shah said here today that Iran's stance towards the destruction of Babri mosque in India last Sunday lifted the spirit of Muslims around the world and was a symbol of Muslim solidarity.

In a meeting with the speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly (Parliament), Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri, the Pakistani minister called Tehran-Islamabad relations as "neighbourly and brotherly" and added that the two countries would cooperate in all fields.

Nateq-Nuri listed the destruction of Babri mosque, Muslim genocide in the Balkans, developments in Tajikistan and Afghanistan, as conspiracies against Muslims to prevent them from establishing their own ruling system.

"Iran and Pakistan both adhere to the Islamic Sharia law and if we do not defend our rightful stands, the enemies, under the pretext of violation of human rights, will hinder us from implementing the Islamic law," he added.

The speaker said Iran has the lowest defence budget in the region, (but global arrogance has launched a propaganda campaign to misportray Iran's defensive capabilities.)

The plotters should know that the Islamic Republic of Iran is determined to beef up its defence capability, he stressed.

Holds Talks With Torkan

LD1212112392 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 12 Dec 92

[Text] Pakistani Defense Minister Ali Shah, who arrived in Tehran yesterday, held his first round of talks with Akbar Torkan, Iranian minister of defense and armed forces logistics, today.

During the meeting discussions were held and views exchanged on military cooperation between Pakistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Pakistani defense minister's visit to our country will last seven days.

Speaker Urges Rebuilding of Babri Mosque

LD1312124492 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 13 Dec 92

[Text] In today's Majles session, Speaker Nateq-Nuri said that the demolition of the Babri Mosque by extremist Hindus, the genocide and massacre of Muslims of Bosnia-Hercegovina, the anti-Muslim situation in Tajikistan, the massacre of Muslims in occupied Palestine, and the plots against the children of Islam in Algeria and Egypt are all indications of an organized design against Islam and world Muslims.

He said that world arrogance, which views Islamic and pan-Islamic movements as a serious danger to itself, has targeted Islam and Muslims with its fiercest attacks.

Nateq-Nuri warned the Indian Government to have nothing to do with the plots of global arrogance and called for the speedy rebuilding of the Babri Mosque. He emphasized the importance of preserving the security of

the followers of various religions in India and respect for their social and political rights.

The speaker of the legislature also pointed to the double standards of the UN Security Council, which maintains silence on the issue of Bosnia-Hercegovina while authorizing the use of military force in Somalia. He said it is not possible to find any excuse for the double standards, except enmity toward Islam and Muslims.

Va'ezi, Russian Envoy Discuss Ties

LD1212133392 Tehran IRNA in English 1253 GMT 12 Dec 92

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 12, IRNA—Russia's Ambassador to Tehran Vladimir Gudev and Deputy Foreign Minister for Euro-America Mahmud Va'ezi met here Saturday morning and discussed the latest developments in Afghanistan and Tajikistan as well as Tehran-Moscow relations.

Gudev underlined his country's interest in promoting Iran-Russia ties. He added that Moscow is seriously engaged in preparation works for setting up the Caspian Sea Littoral States Cooperation Organization (CSLSCO) and that the Russian environment minister will visit Tehran soon to consult with Iranian officials on the issues related to the sea.

Va'ezi announced Iran's readiness to expand Tehran-Moscow relations and regional cooperation within the framework of CSLSCO.

Turning to the latest developments in Afghanistan and Tajikistan, Gudev briefed the Iranian side on the recent events in Tajikistan. Va'ezi described the present situation in the Central Asian country as contrary to the interests of the region. He stressed the need for escalated efforts to help immediate restoration of peace and stability in Tajikistan.

EC Summit Statement on Iran Analyzed

LD1312140292 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1101 GMT 13 Dec 92

[Unattributed commentary: "The EC Summit Statement on Iran"]

[Text] The 12 European leaders, in a detailed statement yesterday—parts of which are specifically about Iran—referred to several points. These include the need to continue official talks with Tehran, arms purchases by Iran, and Iran's position concerning the so-called Middle East talks.

European leaders gathering in Edinburgh, Scotland, agreed to call for the abolition of the death sentence against the apostate Salman Rushdie in their contacts with Iran. They also insist on the claim that human rights are being violated in Iran.

Observers who have studied the European leaders' remarks concerning Iran believe that the statement is the result of two disparate views of Iran by European governments. A minority of those states, which are in greater contact with Iran—sometimes for coordination and sometimes for the purpose of following American policies—stress issues which have much in common with American policies. Giving prominence to Iran's military threat against the Persian Gulf regional states and fanning the issue of human rights violations are instances of this.

Other European countries, which show more independence in relation to America, take more realistic positions compared to the first group. By accepting Iran's political and economic importance, the leaders of these countries believe that, within the framework of the Islamic Republic of Iran's declared policies, there are numerous opportunities for expansion of ties, thus there is no reason for reducing or severing cooperation with it.

Last month, the Bush administration called on America's allies to refrain from exporting advanced technology to Iran. At the time many European states did not consider America's demand to be realistic. Taking into account Iran's size and population, as well as the fact that Iran has put eight years of the Iraqi war behind it, they considered Iran's arms purchases to be natural and prudent.

Therefore, the emphasis laid in the European leaders' statement on human rights violations and the need to ensure that Iran's strengthening of its military capability does not to pose a threat has a more political aspect. It is largely a response to America's widespread propaganda against Iran.

The authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran have repeatedly stressed that Iran seeks equal and sound relations with world states and has never contemplated expansionism and aggression against other countries' territories. With regard to arms purchases, Iran has spent a mere 3.5 percent of the state budget on military purchases. Compared with other Persian Gulf and Middle East states, which spend 10 to 20 percent of their budgets on arms, Iran has the smallest military budget in the region.

Some experts believe that there are many grounds for bilateral discussion between Iran and European countries. The difference between the viewpoints of Iran and Europe regarding the Middle East crisis is one of the issues about which Iran has a great deal to say. The usurping of Palestine by alien immigrants is contrary to the world community covenant and the UN Charter, and Iran is heavily critical of American and European support for Israel. Also, in Iran's eyes, the West's different approach to the Bosnia-Hercegovina crisis and Europe's lack of seriousness in preventing blatant violation of human rights and ethnic cleansing in Bosnia-Hercegovina are contrary to their claimed humanitarian stance.

Embassy in Vatican Denies Report on 'Holy War'

LD1312114692 Tehran IRNA in English 1081 GMT 13 Dec 92

[Text] Rome, Dec. 13, IRNA—Iran's embassy in Vatican Saturday refuted as "unfounded" a report published by an Italian daily alleging that an Iranian religious delegation had met with Muslim and Arab representatives at the U.N. headquarters to persuade them to launch a holy war.

The claim was raised by the Rome based daily LA REPUBLICA in an article this week titled Islamism the legacy of communism.

The article spoke of an alleged meeting between some Iranian Ulema and representatives from Arab and Muslim worlds to the United Nations in which the former called on Muslim countries to mobilize their forces to confront attacks of enemies from the north, south, east and west.

The daily also claimed that the Iranian delegates had said at the meeting that Muslims of the world should prepare to launch a holy war.

Iranian Ambassador to Vatican Hojjat ol-Eslam Masjed-Jame'i in response to the daily termed its claim as "mere lie."

"That a person tells such a big lie and even dares to publish it in a bid to achieve his goals, is not only surprising but also deplorable," the ambassador said.

Although threats posed to Islam today is much more than what the author of the article had thought, the graver danger is the gullibility of a person who thinks he is absolutely right and who makes judgement about others on the basis of his won interests, he said.

Daily Criticizes UN Decision on Macedonia

LD1212142592 Tehran IRNA in English 1358 GMT 12 Dec 92

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 12, IRNA—An afternoon daily Saturday called on Muslim countries to reject the "self-designed mission" of U.N. Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali in dispatching a 700-strong unit of the U.N. forces to station in Macedonia's borders with Kosovo and Albania.

"Muslim countries should practically reject the self-designed mission of Mr. Butrus-Ghali and should send military forces to Bosnia-Hercegovina to be stationed in Kosovo in advance," commented Mohammad Javad Larijani in his weekly political analysis.

The U.N. secretary general outlining his decision had noted that it would be the first stage of the implementation of the U.N. deterring policy, designed by himself in the organization's "preception".

Arguing deployment of force in such a geographic location, the article said Kosovo is a Muslim-populated area with citizens of Albanian origin.

It added that no doubt Muslims in Kosovo would be the next target for crimes of the Serbs, stressing that U.N. forces had no responsibility other than safeguarding the criminals.

Meanwhile, it noted, Albania had declared it would intervene and confront the Serbs in case they perpetrated their ethnic cleansing policy in Kosovo.

In fact, the U.N.'s recent measure was aimed at halting Albania's move to defend Muslims in Kosovo and showing a green light to the Serbs to expel Muslims from the area.

"Who has accepted Mr. Ghali's prescription for international peace and who has said that the U.N. should sacrifice national sovereignty for the universal hegemony of the U.S. and the West," argued Larijani.

He concluded by saying that no doubt the secretary general's prescription was contrary to the text of the future U.N. Charter although the new charter would have no chance of success.

Majles Deputy Rebuts Charge of Nuclear Capability

NC1212183392 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 5 Dec 92 p 16

[Commentary by Majles Deputy Sa'id Raja'i-Khorasani: "The Nuclear Bomb of Propaganda!"]

[Excerpts] Recently, the CIA initiated a clamor regarding the Islamic Republic of Iran's nuclear capability and claimed that by the year 2000 Iran will have the capability of conducting nuclear tests.

The CIA knows better than any other authority that the Islamic Republic is a loyal and active member of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] and is the greatest victim of chemical weapons in history. Therefore, on the international level it is one of the pioneers advocating conventions for a moratorium on producing, stockpiling, or using weapons of mass destruction.

Therefore, if the CIA has any reliable document or trustworthy information, it would be preferable that instead of raising a propaganda clamor, it should present these before the IAEA so that the agency can verify the information with repeated visits to Iran and act according to its jurisdiction. By doing so, it would also be able to dispel any apprehension regarding Iran as a potential nuclear power, and the Islamic Republic of Iran could also pursue its peaceful and legitimate utilization of nuclear energy, removed from all tension and manipulation. So why is the CIA indulging in raising such an outcry and disseminating falsehoods, instead of adopting the logical path? [passage omitted]

Allocating priority to military superiority has resulted in the disproportionate and haphazard proliferation of investing, researching, specializing, and training manpower in the complex weapons industries. Gradually, numerous industrial and economic production and training fields, which were slightly lower than the weapons industries regarding priority and importance, were taken over by allies such as Western Europe, Japan, South Korea, even Singapore and Taiwan. Even the U.S. domestic market has been taken over by its competitor allies.

Now, at the dawn of the post-cold war period, the United States has awakened and perceived that with the dissolution of the Soviet Union, the concept of military dominance has become anachronistic, the pattern of strategic arming has undergone a change, most of the world's well-known markets have been taken over by others, and economic problems stemming from past erroneous policies cannot be resolved by producing weapons. [passage omitted]

The new U.S. rulers, especially the CIA, are fully aware that the great economic malaise that has been dragged off the atrophied shoulders of George Bush onto the shoulders of Clinton cannot be easily resolved. If a quick solution is not found, it will certainly undermine Clinton. The weaponry that had stockpiled during the cold war in U.S. arsenals on the pretext of the Soviet threat and all the defense industries that had lost their utility and purpose with the collapse of the Eastern Bloc are weighing heavily on U.S. hands and are costing astronomical sums to maintain.

U.S. officials are forced to devise a substitute threat for the Soviet Union to mitigate these heavy expenses and to retain a reliable market for these residual armaments, which are relics of the cold war. What better customers could there be than the Persian Gulf countries? What better pretext could there be than the danger from the Islamic Republic of Iran? Therefore, however great the uproar by U.S. humanitarian organizations and the propaganda by CIA information sources regarding the security of the region and for depicting Iran as dangerous, it would still be inadequate. It is obvious that this propaganda and hue and cry will continue until the petrodollars of the regional Arab countries are no longer being extorted from them.

Our Arab brothers must be vigilant and not deceived by this trickery. Can a country such as Iran, which endured losses for eight years during an imposed war, solve its problems by a nuclear bomb? Can a country like India, which has a nuclear capability, provide food and clothing to the billions of hungry and naked human beings who are filling their bellies with wild herbs growing around their cities and airports? Did the Soviet Union disintegrate because of the lack of an atomic bomb? Can Clinton himself solve his country's problems by relying on its nuclear strength?

After all, which country has solved its problems with a nuclear bomb that the Islamic Republic of Iran should be second in line?

We request our Arab Muslim brothers to peruse our budget for this year and see for themselves that the allocation for defense is only 5.5 percent of the total budget, and the allocation for education is 33 percent. How many countries in the world do they know that have allocations for defense and education in this ratio?

Is it possible that with such an allocation for our military expenditure the U.S. allegations regarding our nuclear and military capability can be believed?

We therefore request the heads of the Arab countries not to be deceived by U.S. propaganda and not let the U.S. economic impasse be resolved at the expense of the Arab Muslims. Let us rely on our Muslim fraternity and not on the venom-spewing and discord- generating United States.

Nuclear Agency Rejects 'Baseless' Reports on Program

LD1112181892 Tehran IRNA in English 1607 GMT 11 Dec 92

[Text] Vienna, Dec. 11, IRNA—The Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) has rejected as baseless the widespread propaganda of the international news media particularly those of North America over the nuclear capabilities of the Islamic Republic.

At a meeting near Paris, France Friday, of Eurodif the France- based company, AEOI reiterated that Iran, a member of the Vienna- based International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is a signatory to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), and that it respects its international obligations.

AEOI stated that the Islamic Republic has accepted the full-scope and comprehensive safeguards regime of the IAEA.

AEOI referred to the visit to Iran in February 1992 of a 4-member IAEA team headed by its deputy director general and head of the department of safeguards. The agency mission which reviewed AEOI's activities found that the facilities and sites were consistent with the peaceful application of nuclear energy. The agency subsequently issued a press release to this effect.

The organization stated Iran's objective has never been to seek non-peaceful applications of nuclear energy. It plans to supply part of Iran's electricity needs from nuclear power and for this reason has continued its partnership with Eurodif.

Eurodif is engaged in the fabrication of enrichment fuel elements. Iran is not directly a member of Eurodif but participates in cooperation with another company Sofidif with a 25 percent stake in the former. Iran, however, has a 10 percent share.

A four-member delegation led by the Vice President of Islamic Republic and head of AEOI Reza Amrollahi attended the Eurodif meeting.

Rafsanjani Stresses Defense Self-Sufficiency

LD1212120192 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 12 Dec 92

[Excerpt] The first graduation ceremony for the Islamic Republic of Iran's Air Force Academy cadets has been held in the presence of President Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Our correspondent reports that the president said defense self-sufficiency and the attainment of the highest military expertise and training are among the country's most urgent requirements at this juncture of history. He said: With the establishment of this academy and the graduation of the first group of cadets, a great and fundamental step has been taken.

Stressing that the Iranian nation will never forget the bravery of its armed combatant forces, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani called on the Armed Forces to repay the people for their support during the holy defense period [the Iran-Iraq war] by continuing their development activities and joining the people in the construction arena.

Finally, the president expressed the hope that the academy will make appropriate preparations to offer specialized training to young people from other Islamic states, through its successful acquisition of a higher training capacity. [passage omitted]

Pakistan

Prime Minister Speaks on Mosque Destruction

BK1112155892 Islamabad PTV Television Network in Urdu 1425 GMT 11 Dec 92

[Address to the nation by Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif; place and date not given—live or recorded]

[Text] My dear countrymen, peace be upon you. I am here before you today in connection with a tragedy that sent a wave of anguish and indignation throughout the entire Islamic world. The day of 6 December was a black day not only for we Muslims, but for the champions of religious freedom and human rights as well. The Indian Government could not protect the Babri mosque from demolition at the hands of the Hindu extremists despite a Supreme Court judgment to this effect, and displayed negligence in this regard. For a Muslim, the mosque represents the Holy Ka'ba. And the demolition of a historic place of worship like the Babri mosque which had been used as a Muslim place of worship for nearly five centuries is a great human tragedy as well as a savage act which is unthinkable in this civilized era. The demolition of the Babri Mosque has shattered India's claims about secularism and nonviolence.

The matter did not end with the demolition of the mosque. A massacre of oppressed and unarmed Muslims throughout India followed the incident. Their properties were looted and destroyed. I, not only as a prime minister but also as a common Muslim, am deeply grieved over this tragedy. Since the black day of 6 December, I have not sat quiet for even a moment, and as long as the Babri mosque is not reconstructed, my soul will continue to remain restless. I do not accept any sort of compromise in this regard. Being a Muslim, I have the right to worship in every mosque in the world. The UN Charter on basic human rights also recognizes the universal right to places of worship. Therefore, the responsibility for restoration of the Babri Mosque lies on the entire Islamic world. And we will fulfill this responsibility with our full strength and capabilities, God willing.

My dear countrymen! Your government was aware of the movement against the Babri mosque. We had adopted a resolution in the National Assembly a long time ago, which asked India to fulfill its responsibility regarding the protection of the Babri mosque. At that time the Indian Government protested, describing the resolution as interference in its affairs and said that it is aware of its responsibilities. But time proved that our apprehensions were not unfounded and there were concrete reasons to pass the resolution. We discharged our responsibilities on each occasion. All along we were being given the impression that no shadow will be cast on the existence of the Babri mosque, but the world has seen that like the pledge on the plebiscite in Kashmir and Indian secularism, the Indian Government deviated from its promises in this matter as well.

This tragedy was sudden as well as heartbreaking for us. This tragedy hurt the feelings of the Muslims the world over and all of Pakistan protested from head to toe. Some of our people, who are imbued with the spirit of Islam, were overcome with sentiments and committed acts which are prohibited in Islam. I was fully aware of the seriousness of this shock and that is why I appealed to the people to exercise restrain and patience. Our faith instructs us to protect our values and never allows us to torch, damage, or demolish places of worships of non-Muslims. We should control our emotions while carrying out the orders of the God almighty and no damage should be caused to the life, property, and places of worship of non-Muslims in Pakistan.

I regret the damage caused to temples and property of non-Muslims due to the shock of the martyrdom of the Babri mosque and strongly condemn these violent incidents. Those who have committed these acts have in no way served the country, nation, and Islam. In view of these incidents, the government has decided that the work on rebuilding and repairing the temples, which were either demolished or destroyed, will be taken up immediately and the Pakistan Government will bear the expenses. The human lives lost during these disturbances cannot be retrieved, but members of the family of each person killed will be given appropriate cash compensation. Non-Muslims who have suffered losses in kind and

property will also be compensated. We have taken this decision without pressure or demands from anybody. This is our Islamic and national duty, which we are discharging.

My dear countrymen, I am not referring to anyone here, but some opposition politicians made your government the target of unjust criticism. It would have been more proper had they done so after examining the facts. Immediately after the tragedy, your government condemned it without any delay. It called for an emergency meeting of the Cabinet, which not only formulated a coordinated policy, but also made decisions of an immediate nature. A declaration was issued to observe a day of protest throughout the country against the demolition of the mosque, and with your cooperation the protest was so successful its precedence is not found in Pakistan's history. India's high commissioner was summoned and made aware of the anguish and indignation of Pakistani Muslims. A meeting of the ambassadors of foreign countries was convened and was apprised of the history of the Babri mosque and the insensitivity of the Indian Government. Then the envoys of the Muslim countries were called separately and they were also informed of the background of this tragedy and were urged to appeal, as Muslims, to the international community to pressure the Indian Government and also to tell their governments to not only vehemently condemn India but also to categorically demand that it reconstruct the Babri mosque. responsible for the loss of Muslim lives and property, rebuild all the mosques that have been demolished at its own expense, and provide full protection of the life, property, and mosques of the Muslims in India.

Apart from these measures, Pakistan called for an extraordinary conference of the representatives of Islamic countries in New York, which was attended by delegates from all Islamic countries. At this conference, the leader of the Pakistani delegation informed the representatives of the details of demolition of the Babri mosque and the brutalities committed against the Muslims. And, as result of our efforts, the conference strongly condemned India. Now, Pakistan is trying to raise the issue of the demolition of the Babri mosque at the United Nations in the light of the international principles of human rights. We have been continuously pressuring the Indian Government, in accordance with international principles and bilateral agreements, to ensure that it fulfills all of its obligations—humanitarian, international, constitutional, legal, and moral. God willing, these efforts will yield desirable results, provided that all things that have happened in India are not repeated here.

My dear countrymen, as you know, when the tragedy of the demolition of the Babri mosque occurred, there was political tension in Pakistan. Certain opposition parties were organizing a long march, and I, in my political capacity, was contacting the people and apprising them of the damage the long march was inflicting upon the nation. But, immediately after hearing the news of the Babri mosque's demolition, I put aside my political capacity and in the capacity of the prime minister I considered it my responsibility to face this problem, which not only concerns the nation but the entire Islamic community as well, collectively with unity and solidarity. Had I concerned myself with political expediencies, I would have made use of this opportunity for domestic political ends. But I heard the voice of Babri Mosque: Would you play politics even on the issue of my demolition?

I prayed to God to help me fulfill this Islamic duty and to keep me aloof of political prejudices. Therefore, I ignored the confrontation initiated by the opposition and called on them to join in this noble task so that we could unitedly work for the success of whichever policy we make with national consensus. I was thinking of including the opposition members in the delegations which would be sent abroad to mobilize public opinion against India's inhuman action, and also to arrive at a consensus on the stand which Pakistan would take at the Islamic Conference Organization and at the United Nations. If all the political parties of Pakistan unitedly present to the world the issue of Babri mosque, it will definitely have added effect. But I regret that some opposition leaders did not respond to this gesture. I thank the leaders who responded to my call and appreciate their Islamic integrity and the spirit of faith in God. And I am leaving to you the case of those leaders who did not join this noble task.

I did not have any political objective in this invitation. God has given me the courage to face political challenges in the political arena. The tragedy of the Babri Mosque was a tragedy affecting the entire Islamic community. Being the prime minister, I would like to take steps in this regard with the consensus of the entire nation. I invited the opposition leaders with this objective in view and wanted to see that they did not make political mileage out of this religious issue. Come, let us display national unity on this occasion. It is our responsibility to move forward united in the discharge of our national and Islamic duties with regard to the tragedy of the Babri mosque. It is not only my wish but also the wish of the entire nation, and in keeping with that wish I am keeping my doors open even today.

Two of my colleagues will try to persuade the opposition leaders who failed to join this noble task. I myself am renewing my invitation to them to join in formulating the national strategy on this issue. Perhaps, they have also been listening the voice of the Babri mosque: Would you play politics even on the issue of my demolition?

My dear countrymen, this is a test of the acumen and capacity of political leaders. You will decide within the next few days as to who took care of the interests of the country and the nation and who preferred political objectives, who really served Islam and who made it a political slogan, who sacrificed his ego for the sake of the Islamic community and who preferred his own self over the Islamic community, who held talks in categorical terms with India with the spirit of faith in God and patriotism and who evaded these responsibilities.

Long Live Pakistan.

Opposition To Protest Mosque Destruction

BK1212170992 Hong Kong AFP in English 1640 GMT 12 Dec 92

[Text] Lahore, Pakistan, Dec 12 (AFP)—Pakistan's opposition alliance, led by former premier Benazir Bhutto, decided Saturday to launch a month-long mass mobilization programme to protest the destruction of the Babri mosque in India.

Speaking to reporters after a party meeting chaired by Bhutto, People's Democratic Alliance (PDA) Secretary General Khurshid Mahmood Kasuri said the campaign would be conducted in Punjab, the most important province in terms of population, the economy and politics.

The PDA would start holding public rallies in the province from Tuesday, Kasuri said, without elaborating the objectives of the planned campaign.

The move seemed to be related to the ongoing domestic political tussle between the opposition and the government of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif.

The PDA accuses Sharif of doing nothing to prevent the desecration and destruction of the Babri mosque, which was razed by Hindu fanatics in the northern Indian town of Ayodhia a week ago.

It also blames him for failing to protect temples, lives and property of the minority Hindu community in Pakistan during nationwide demonstrations this past week in reaction to the demolition of the Babri mosque.

Bhutto on Round Table, Mosque

BK1212094392 Islamabad THE NATION in English 12 Dec 92 pp 1,2

[Text] Lahore-PPP [Pakistan Peoples Party] Co-Chairperson Benazir Bhutto has categorically declared that none of the APC [All Party Conference] parties would participate in any Round Table Conference to be convened by the Government.

Fielding questions from newsmen after the APC's morning session held here on Friday, she said, the APC through its resolutions had made it clear as to what steps should be taken internally and internationally to tackle the situation arising out of the Babri Masjid [mosque] demolition. "We have already forwarded our three major demands, including the removal of the Government, formation of Government based on national consensus and holding of free and fair elections to be conducted by an impartial Election Commission. We have fulfilled the purpose of the APC and nothing short of the acceptance of these three demands could bring APC and Government on negotiating table," she said.

She maintained that the APC convened for reviewing the Babri Masjid issue also discussed other issues as a result of which three demands pertaining to the Government's removal and holding of fresh elections came up.

She said it was a unanimous APC view that Nawaz Sharif had been isolated due to his wrong policies.

She said Nawaz Sharif was holding public meetings for two weeks before the Babri Masjid demolition but he never uttered a word against what Hindus were planning to pull down the mosque. He was only interested and busy in dubbing the people and the Opposition as enemies of Pakistan, she said.

She said the Government RTC was not attended by any party other than Jeay Sindh, another party vying for confederal system, cabinet members and Chief Minister of the provinces.

She said, on December 6 last, she demanded in a Press conference for the convening of the OIC heads meeting to discuss the Babri Masjid issue which the Government failed to arrange. According to her, the Government itself indulged in damaging minorities property in the country. She said in a joint appeal the APC requested the Supreme Court to take a suo motto notice of the Government's attitude in this respect.

She asserted that the APC had proved that the whole nation had gathered under the flag of the opposition while Nawaz Sharif did not enjoying public support.

About greater alliance, she said that different parties having different shades of opinion were participating in the APC. They might have some difference of opinion on other issues but the APC was unanimous in its differences with Nawaz Sharif Government. Every APC party has a different manifesto but it adopted a bipartisan approach on bigger issues facing the country.

She said the Babri Masjid issue could not be discussed in the Parliament because the Government did not let the opposition requisition the session. Parliament was made ineffective by the Mian Nawaz's dictatorial regime which was virtually a civil martial law. Civil courts have been turned into military courts, she said. She said the government was responsible for spreading religious apartheid in the country.

Accusing the Government for not initiating any measure to prevent the Babri Masjid demolition, she asked what the country's intelligence agencies were doing before the demolition. In fact, Mian Nawaz government was responsible for subverting the III. Instead of using the agencies for furthering the country's [word indistinct], they were being deployed for political purposes. "At the time of the Masjid's demolition what special work these special people were doing," she said.

She questioned why did not the government itself call Parliament session to discuss the Babri Masjid issue before its demolition? Whether the Babri Masjid was important or the task to describe Opposition as traitors, she said. [sentence as published]

She said the PDA was sitting in the Assemblies as a protest as it wanted to struggle against the Government at every forum. "Whenever we deem it fit, we would quit the Assemblies," she said.

When asked about the possibility of a long march by APC parties, she said this topic was not included in the APC agenda.

Opposition Agrees To Resume 'Long March' 18 Dec

BK1212052492 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 12 Dec 92

[Text] In Pakistan, the opposition parties, including three major alliances—PDA [People's Democratic Alliance], NDA [National Democratic Alliance] and IJM [Islami Jumhoori Mahaz, Islamic Democratic Front] have decided to have a working relationship to oust the Nawaz Sharif government. At a special meeting in Lahore yesterday, the opposition parties could not, however, finalize on how to oust the present government. Ms. Benazir Bhutto after the meeting said all opposition alliances have agreed to restart long march to Islamabad on the 18th of this month.

Indian Helicopters Kill Pakistani Fishermen

BK1312165392 Hong Kong AFP in English 1139 GMT 13 Dec 92

[Text] Karachi, Dec 13 (AFP)—Indian gunship helicopters attacked a Pakistani fishing flotilla, killing one fisherman and injuring another, fisheries officials said here Sunday.

The incident in Pakistan territorial waters, took place near Ghora Bari, about 120 kilometres (70 miles) southeast of here, late Saturday when about a dozen Pakistani fishing trawlers were engaged in fishing, they said.

The body of the killed fisherman and the injured have been brought here.

Alao Nakhuda, a crewman of the Al-Yasreb fishing trawler, which was hit in the attack, said here Sunday that a gunboat from the Indian Coast guard had urged the fishermen to surrender but instead they cruised into shallow waters where the helicopter attacked.

Other trawlers escaped to safety.

Officials, confirming the incident, said Pakistan maritime security authorities had taken precautionary measures and were trying to establish contact with Indian authorities over the incident.

Minister Denies Training Kashmiri Militants

BK1312113392 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 13 Dec 92 p 5

[Text] Islamabad—Federal Minister for Industries Sheikh Rashid Ahmed Saturday once again categorically denied that he was running training camps of Kashmiri militants.

"I am a responsible person and I deny all such reports," Sheikh Rashid said adding, "We were only providing the Kashmiri refugees with shelter and food."

The minister stated this while commenting on a news report saying that the United States was about to declare Pakistan a terrorist state. He said if it happens it would be unfair and discriminatory on the part of the United States.

He wondered that every thing was OK when Afghan mujahedin were fighting against the former Soviet Union. "The US then used to supply us with Cobra Gunships and Stinger missiles."

Advocating the cause of Kashmir, he said Kashmiri people need help and attention from the world for they were fighting against (?India) for their self determination.

Sri Lanka

Government Rejects Tamil Tiger's Peace Offer

BK1012135692 Hong Kong AFP in English 0745 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] COLOMBO, Dec 10 (AFP)—The Sri Lankan Government rejected Thursday [10 December] an offer of direct peace talks with the most powerful Tamil guerrilla group to end the island's separatist war and denied contacts with the separatist rebels.

Government spokesmen rejected a call by the dominant Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) to declare a ceasefire to clear the way for direct negotiations with the government.

"There are no contacts with the LTTE either direct or through any third party," Bradman Weerakoon, presidential advisor on international affairs, told reporters here.

Cabinet spokesman and Industries Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe also ruled out talks saying that any solution to the island's long- drawn ethnic conflict must be found through the on going Parliamentary Select Committee (PSC).

The LTTE's Paris-based spokesman, Lawrence Thilakar, said earlier in the week that they were willing to talk and have been "passing the message" through unnamed non-government organisations and official representatives.

"We keep open the door for a peaceful settlement. The government has to take the opportunity and come for negotiations," Thilakar said, adding that they had not yet received a response from Colombo.

The LTTE came for talks with Colombo in April 1989, but the initiative failed after 14 months, leading to fresh bloodletting. In January 1991, an LTTE initiated truce ended with both sides accusing each other of violations. Thilakar claimed they were making the latest peace offer from a position of strength after having gained militarily since a previous ceasefire broke down in January last year.

Military spokesman Brigadier Nalin Angammana said there had been no let up in the drive against the LTTE and said the airforce had two days ago carried out aerial attacks against three LTTE camps in the northern Jaffna peninsula.

Analysts had said that the Tigers were probably talking peace to boost its flagging image abroad after the negative international publicity over alleged massacres of hundreds of Moslem civilians in the island's multi-ethnic east.

The Tigers, however, have denied attacking Moslems who form a minority in the east. The Tigers are demanding a separate Tamil homeland in the northern and eastern regions where the two million Tamil minority is concentrated.

Thilakar said they were imposing no conditions for talks with Colombo, but at the same time argued that any settlement to conflict should be on the basis of self-determination and by considering the "entirety of the Tamil homeland."

"We have always been insisting that talks should be unconditional and there must be a proper climate and conducive conditions for talks. Therefore there must be a ceasefire and consequently there must be talks," he said.

Thilakar said they were prepared to study any proposal of the parliamentary committee, which has been trying for over a year to hammer out a consensus on minority demands and resolve the ethnic crisis.

Legislators Fail To Reach Agreement on Peace Bid

BK1112144092 Hong Kong AFP in English 1424 GMT 11 Dec 92

[Text] COLOMBO, Dec 11 (AFP)—A crucial peace bid conducted behind closed doors ended here Friday [11 December] with Tamil and Sinhalese legislators failing to agree on key issues to halt ethnic bloodletting in Sri Lanka, a minority Tamil MP said.

The government-appointed parliamentary select committee concluded its sittings with the contending Tamil and Sinhalese parties no closer to a consensus on solving the long drawn out conflict, Suresh Premachandra said.

"As far as the Tamils are concerned the select committee has collapsed," he told AFP, adding an offer by the ruling United National Party (UNP) to adopt an Indian-style constitution fell short of their demands.

President Ranasinghe Premadasa's party and the main opposition Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) made no proposals but said they will go along with the consensus of the committee, often touted as the last chance for peace in the island.

"There is consensus between the SLFP, the UNP and the Moslem parties that there should be no federal constitution... This is not acceptable to Tamil parties. So nothing has changed," Premachandra said.

He charged that the UNP and the SLFP went back on an earlier promise to scrap the unitary character of the country and go for a federal constitution that could have given more autonomy to Tamils.

"They said they are prepared to adopt the Indian model. They promised more powers. But that will only be a diluted version," Premachandra of the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF) said. He said the chairman of the committee, Mangala Munasinghe, was expected to prepare a draft report within about a week on the outcome of their sessions before presenting it to parliament. Munasinghe who is an opposition MP was unavailable for comment.

Last month, Munasinghe told the committee that former premier Sirima Bandaranaike agreed to radical constitutional reforms to end the long drawn out Tamil homeland campaign but she quickly denied agreeing to any concession.

Legislators privately agreed that majority Sinhalese parties were unwilling to go public with the federal formula as that could attract a backlash from their constituents opposed to the concept.

Tamil parties in return were to drop territorial demands over merging as one unit the vast northern and eastern provinces where the two million Tamil minority is concentrated.

Tamil MPs charged that the Sinhalese were not prepared to keep their part of the bargain by rewriting the constitution. Any constitutional amendment requires a two thirds majority in parliament but the ruling party lacks it.

Last week, the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) offered to resume direct peace talks with Colombo either based on a consensus formula of the committee or on the government's own package to end the strife.

The government, however, rejected the offer and said it was awaiting the outcome of the committee to implement a solution to end the 20-year-old guerrilla war which claims a daily death toll in the country.